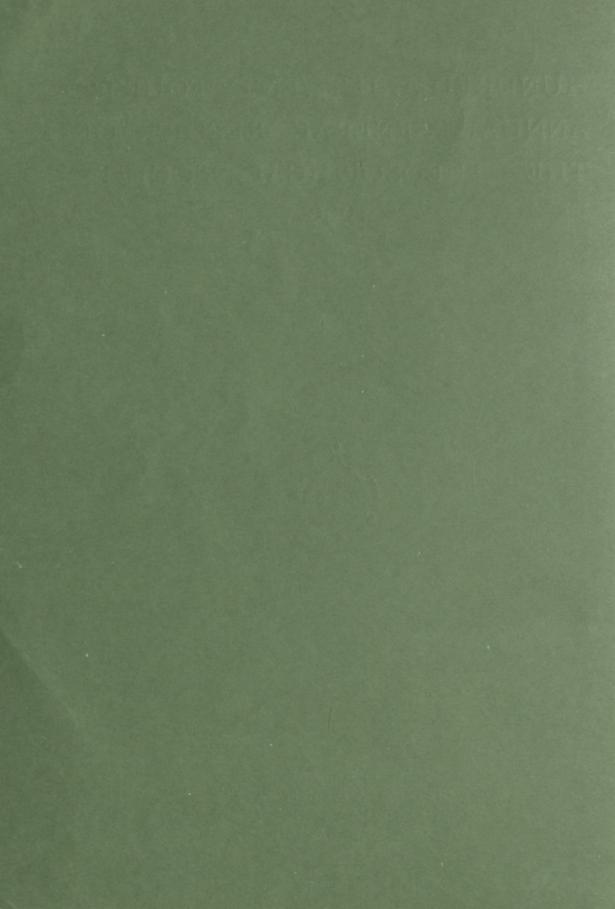
# HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT OF THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY 1999



Published by
THE INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY
THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY, ADYAR
CHENNAI 600 020, INDIA



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## **Presidential Address**

To the 124th Annual Convention of the Theosophical Society, Adyar, 26 December 1999

Before I begin my address, let us rise to invoke a blessing from the Elder Brethren of humanity:

May those who are the embodiments of Love immortal bless with Their help and guidance this Society, founded to be a channel for Their work. May They inspire it with Their wisdom, strengthen it with Their power, and energize it with Their activity.

Brothers and Sisters,

With much joy and warmth I welcome you to this Convention and to our much-loved Headquarters at Adyar. Every Convention seems special and we look forward with eagerness to being part of it. We return home with inspiration, energy and a renewed sense of brotherhood. By experiencing such upliftment once again at this Convention, may we be enabled to do the Society's work more sincerely and wholeheartedly, and may we have the strength to proceed on our quest for light with steady, unwavering steps.

Much is said about the new millennium and the new century nowadays, but humanity is stubbornly persisting in its old ways. War, violence, exploitation and hatred are to be found everywhere. Moral considerations are relegated to the background in the mad search for knowledge and satisfaction. There is little concern about how knowledge is used. The search for increasingly dangerous means of destruction goes

on, and also for more profitable ways to exploit Nature. The desire for personal satisfaction seems to override family considerations and the sense of duty. Ruthlessness has become an intrinsic part of many professions.

How can the millennium be new when the human mind is entrenched in old patterns? What will be new? Improved models of gadgets? Cloned monsters? Every such thing will be the product of stale minds filled with prejudices and ambitions. Human consciousness must break with the past in order to usher in a new dawn. It must obtain a new view of life, a new vision. Madame Blavatsky wrote in her article on 'What are the Theosophists?' published in the first volume of *The Theosophist* magazine which she brought out in Bombay:

Once a student abandons the old and trodden highway of routine, and enters upon the solitary path of independent thought — Godward — he is a Theosophist; an original thinker, a seeker after the eternal truth with 'an

inspiration of his own' to solve the universal problems.

Present-day humanity has by and large lost the art of contemplation. When life was simpler and closer to Nature, people were relatively free of the restlessness and pressures which are so characteristic of the present times. No one was shy about silence or made to feel guilty because he or she spent quiet moments watching, contemplating, and learning about life. Such reflection was encouraged in several ancient cultures, but that is not the case now. Some years ago when I was sitting quietly under a tree during a summer school in Europe, someone came up to ask: 'What is the matter with you? Are you sad or in trouble? Why are you sitting alone?' People are conditioned to believe that solitude is unnatural or undesirable. Everybody is expected to be busy all the time. Even in the East, contemplation is beginning to be regarded as a synonym of idleness and people are pressured to be visibly active and occupied.

The contemplative life of the Taoists gave them profound insights. Let us listen to the wisdom of Lao Tsu:

Heaven is eternal, Earth is durable.

The reason why they are eternal and durable

Is that they do not exist for themselves. This is why they can long endure.

Therefore, the Sage putting himself behind,
Finds himself in front;
And placing himself beyond his concern,
Finds himself well preserved.

Is this not because he is unselfish? For the very reason that he is unselfish,

He is able to find Self-fulfilment.
Also,

A man of the superior type resembles water,

Whose goodness lies in benefiting all things without contention.

Contemplation is a form of tapas or austerity — a purification of consciousness, cleansing it of motivation and of its many aims and objectives. Then it becomes open to the truth, to the depths in life. The modern contemplative Henry David Thoreau relates an experience of solitude:

To be alone was somewhat unpleasant. But, in the midst of a gentle rain,... I was suddenly sensible of such sweet and beneficent society in Nature, in the very pattering of the drops, and in every sight and sound around my house, an infinite and unaccountable friendliness all at once, like an atmosphere, sustaining me... Every little pine needle expanded and swelled with sympathy and befriended me. I was so distinctly made aware of the presence of something kindred to me, that I thought no place could ever be strange to me again.

Religious traditions recommend opening the heart to the one divine Reality that is everywhere. In the article referred to earlier, HPB declares:

For to be one [a theosophist] one need not necessarily recognize the existence of any special God or a deity. One need but worship the spirit of living Nature, and try to identify oneself with it. To revere that *Presence*, the invisible Cause, which is yet ever manifesting itself in its incessant results; the

intangible, omnipotent, and omnipresent Proteus: indivisible in its Essence, and eluding form, yet appearing under all and every form; who is here and there, and everywhere and nowhere; is ALL and NOTHING; ubiquitous yet one; the Essence filling, binding, bounding, containing everything; contained in all.

The quiet, attentive mind alone comes into touch with the Real, not the restless, distracted, busy mind. To the self-preoccupied, agitated person, the superficial appears real because the senses find objects to distract and satisfy the mind, and make it feel important. Captivated by sensory and worldly objects, many today are like the people in Plato's cave, hypnotized by shadows. In the future there might be millions so glamorized by computer and television screens that the whole earth might become a grand version of Plato's cave!

The word 'holism' has become popular, but those who follow the so-called holistic philosophy are often only superficially aware of the interlinking of life forms. To be real, the wholeness of life must be experienced, and this happens through contemplation, when the mind is at peace and begins to sense the Presence which HPB mentions the Presence which is the divine Immanence or God. Within our Society there are some persons who object to the word 'God', but HPB used it! God is universal Life which embraces all, sustains all, and is the origin and end

Annie Besant stated that every religion has two parts, an inner and an outer; so has Theosophy. They correspond to the higher and lesser knowledge (parā and aparā vidyā) of the Vedānta. The higher is knowledge of God; it is Brahmavidyā, God-wisdom or God-science. One may belong to any religion or none and yet be truly religious by virtue of this wisdom.

The lesser Theosophy is a body of truths concerning God, man and the universe which the sages and seers of all races and ages have proclaimed to guide people, to the extent they are receptive, giving them the inspiration for ethical living and religious aspiration. These truths can be communicated, at least in part, through words, while the experience of Eternal Life cannot. It is important for all of us to realize that words and explanations sound empty, dogmatic or unconvincing if we repeat them by rote. They have the power to touch people's hearts only when we have contemplated and assimilated them, and opened ourselves to some extent to the divine Presence. 'I know and others do not know' is the attitude of orthodox religious people, while Theosophists encourage enquiry and search leading to direct perception. Conceptual Theosophy can become divisive, like the tenets of any other sect. Therefore, let us take to heart the warning that when the TS becomes a sect, it will have no future.

The contemplative life demands refinement of body, brain and mind. A clean life, an open mind, a pure heart, compassion towards all living beings, sensitivity to beauty, consideration for others' needs, are all necessary in the

quest for Wisdom. Ethics is the soul of Theosophy. In Annie Besant's words, 'members of the Theosophical Society study the truths and Theosophists endeavour to live them'.

The new dawn will begin to illumine our world when the faculty of intuition, insight, buddhi, or whatever name we like to use, awakens within us and takes charge of our lives. This faculty sees the One in the many, the Whole which is greater than the parts, the divine Music in sounds, and the meaning of the cosmic processes. If we do not work towards this awakening, who will?

Let us look at the membership picture of our Society. There are members in about seventy countries. How many are clear about the fundamentals of the Wisdom teaching, at least sufficiently to influence their surroundings? We do not know. In certain areas, for example in India, the South-East Asia, Kenya, Scotland and Canada, membership has increased. In a few places there is a sharp fall: Greece had only 270 members, but 153 have left; in Indonesia, 87 out of 325 members have lapsed; and in England the number has fallen by 98.

Numerical strength is not, however, a definitive index of the zeal or knowledge existing in a particular area; political conditions and other difficulties may obstruct expansion.

Members of the Indian Section are no doubt happy that numerically it continues to grow. During the year, its strength grew by 444, more than half of the increase being in the Karnataka Federation. The Section's responsibility is also greater to keep the flame of the Ancient Wisdom burning brightly in its midst until it has spread widely over the whole world.

We shall miss the stalwarts who have passed to peace during the year. Mr A. R. Bakshi, who directed the School of the Wisdom at Adyar more than once and was an example to many in western India, had a distinguished career as a Judge of the High Court of Gujarat and Vice Chancellor of a university in that state. Another dedicated and valuable member was Mr C. Seshadri, whose unfailing kindness and brotherliness endeared him to all people and attracted many to the TS. Mr S. S. Varma was a pillar of the Indian Section, International Treasurer for a time, and later in charge of the Archives at Adyar.

Study sessions are a regular feature of the Indian Section's work. They provide an opportunity for serious members to delve deeper into theosophical teachings and for newer members to gain steadiness in the work. These study programmes usually last three to ten days, and hence make a more lasting impression on participants than a single lecture or a short meeting. Lectures do have their value, but they cannot offer the insights which come through serious study, reflection, and discussion. Other Sections should consider whether similar sustained study sessions might benefit them.

In recent years, the Indian Section has been giving some financial help to its Federations to publish books in their vernacular languages and also to better maintain some of the valuable buildings scattered over the country. The Indian Theosophist circulates to 5,500 English-speaking members, while others receive journals in their mother tongue. The Theosophical Digest is being printed in India and distributed to about 3,000 subscribers. The Theosophical Order of Service is actively serving those in distress in every part of the country as can be seen from the printed report of the National Director, Mrs Sarasvati Narayan.

The difficult conditions in Indonesia have apparently made it impossible to hold the usual annual convention, but business was transacted by Council members. The Section has received compensation from the Government for one of the premises lost during the Japanese occupation, and they hope to utilize it to promote activities. The three Lodges in Japan are active and so is the Lodge in Korea. Mr Vicente Hao Chin Jr., President of the Indo-Pacific Federation, visited both countries and gave lectures.

The report from Sri Lanka outlines their effort to strengthen activities in Colombo, where regular meetings are now being held at the Section's headquarters. Some new members have come in, and older members are showing more interest. The Lodges outside Colombo which are not active need to be revived.

The Philippines Section proposes to establish an Institute of Theosophy for members and the public. The Theosophical Order of Service is very active there. During his stay in the country Mr Surendra Narayan lectured at the TS headquarters and Mrs Narayan conducted a workshop on 'Service'.

Dr C. V. Agarwal, Presidential Representative for South-East Asia, reports a net increase of 124 members in the region, out of whom 90 are from Bangladesh. The hundred-year-old Comilla Lodge has fortunately recovered its building, lost during the 1971 war, and is holding meetings there. A new study centre is being formed at Patiya in Chittagong district. In Malaysia two Lodges are functioning. Basic Theosophy courses given in Singapore by Mr Chong Sanne have resulted in 70 new members joining the Lodge. They are now studying The Mahatma Letters. Dr N. C. Ramanujachary delivered a series of talks at the Lodge during his month-long visit to Singapore. Another visitor was Mr Conrad Jamieson. former International Secretary.

The report from Pakistan says that

The report from Pakistan says that regular work goes on in Karachi. There is only occasional activity in Hyderabad. Public lectures in Karachi are held in a hotel to draw the attention of the public to the existence of the TS, while study classes and other programmes take place in the Lodge. Interest has been created in Upper Sind, where the Sukkur Study Centre received assistance from the Australian Section.

A poster announcing the World Congress to be held in Sydney from 13 to 19 January 2001 has been distributed worldwide by the Australian Section, and registrations are coming in. In response to members

asking what they get in return for the dues they pay, the National President, Mrs Beverley Champion, comments that for each dollar received, the Section spends \$2.80. In other Sections too more is spent than is received. Miss Joy Mills conducted the Australian School of Theosophy in the Springbrook Centre and toured the country. I too travelled to Springbrook and led a Retreat on the theme 'Within You is the Light of the World'. Mrs Champion and the Education Coordinator, Mrs Linda Harris, lectured at many Lodges. The New Zealand Section held its convention at Dunedin with Miss Tran-Thi-Kim-Dieu as the guest speaker. She also toured the country. Other visiting lecturers were Miss Joy Mills and Prof. P. Krishna.

The report from Dr John Algeo, National President of the TS in America is very informative and detailed, whereas many of the Section reports, particularly from Latin America, contain only vague statements without any information about which Lodges are active, what they do, where lecturers spoke, etc.!

The number of members in the USA has risen to 4368. The former National President, Mrs Dora Kunz, well-known for her healing work and clairvoyant investigations passed away in her nineties. The biggest Lodge is the non-local National Lodge, whose members communicate and receive study programmes electronically. The Wheaton Publishing House released several new books. Translation rights are increasingly sold to foreign publishers. The Section also

continually produces new audio and video materials which are used far and wide. Quest, the national magazine, has a combination of materials for members and non-members. Lecturers, of whom there are 23, have travelled widely. Members in general are encouraged to visit 'Olcott', the Section headquarters, in order to know more about the Society and its work. Young Theosophists have been meeting every week at Olcott to study The Voice of the Silence and other books.

Membership in the Canadian Federation is growing slowly but steadily, and now stands at 108, distributed over six Lodges and three study groups. The annual business meeting was conducted in two languages (French and English) with Mr George Duguay as the guest speaker, and with the unusual theme, 'Jesus is not God and Christ is not a person'.

In Chile the work is going on modestly with four Lodges, one of which has only 5 members. In this country, as in several others, meditation for peace is popular. The Argentine Section has shown a continuous decline and now has 348 members. Their report, and the one from Colombia, are rather vague. The membership in Bolivia, Peru, and Uruguay is small.

In Cuba work is going on steadily. The fifty-year-old headquarters building in Havana has been repaired and another building in Santa Clara partially repaired with assistance from the international headquarters.

Mr Ricardo Lindemann, newly

elected General Secretary of the Brazilian Section, is stressing the importance of members' meetings. Profs. Ravi Ravindra and P. Krishna gave valuable programmes.

The Puerto Rican General Secretary, Mrs Magaly Polanco, visited Santo Domingo to discuss administrative matters. Mr Isaac Jauli from Mexico visited the Section and conducted a seminar. Work is said to be proceeding as usual. The Costa Rican Lodges had regular weekly meetings and study programmes. The Presidential Representative mentions that the group outside the capital of San Juan is working with enthusiasm. From Mexico we hear of three new study centres being formed, one of which is in a jail. Two series of lectures on reincarnation and karma and two others specially for young people were organized. The Inter-American Federation Council met in Mexico City in May.

As mentioned above, the membership of the TS in England has dropped, although the decrease seemed to have been arrested last year. Mr and Mrs Ed Abdill from the USA were guest speakers. The headquarters has many programmes. The General Secretary, Mr Colin Price, reports that the Tekels Park Estate in Camberley has been used more for members' programmes. If these continue and Tekels Park develops into an inspiring Centre for theosophical study, discussion, meditation and so on, it may help to reverse the membership decline. Scotland has grown in numbers and we are told that most Lodge meetings had very good attendance. In Wales the only effective Lodge is in Cardiff, where they have study meetings and public talks. There are small groups in two other places. Happily, in Ireland there is much more contact between members in Dublin and Belfast, who have been considering further cooperation and even forming a Regional Association comprising all members on the island.

The French Section celebrated its centenary in June in Paris, and arranged an archival exhibition with very interesting material. Among the guests were myself and friends from the US, Finland and the Netherlands. The summer school for Frenchspeaking members held at Naarden was a continuation of the centenary celebration and, besides the Vice-President and myself, there were members from France, Belgium, Italy, Luxembourg, Israel, Russia, and the Ukraine. The work in the Belgian Section goes on steadily, and after several years I had the pleasure of meeting members in Brussels. Prof. P. Krishna also visited Belgium and spoke on 'Science and Religion' and 'The Quest for Happiness'.

The International Theosophical Centre at Naarden was the scene of many activities during the summer, including the French-speaking summer school mentioned above, the Dutch summer school which followed, and a seminar on 'Exploring Theosophical Work', in which members from different parts of Europe participated. A special event was the opening of the long-awaited new Guest House. All normal activities of the

Dutch Section are directed from Amsterdam. Representatives of the Section and of various religions and philosophies were invited to a discussion on values in educational institutions.

At the German summer school the theme was 'From Knowledge to Wisdom', and the guest speakers were myself, the Vice-President and Dr Yves Marcel. Mrs Elisabeth Schmidt, General Secretary, remarks that though some lectures are given in Lodges, the work is largely done in study classes with discussions. The Vice-President visited several of the Lodges during her stay in Europe.

Two new Lodges were chartered in Finland. There was a series of programmes as usual at the summer house of the Section in Kreivila. The TS in Denmark is doing well and held sixteen public lectures in Copenhagen, where the original property of the TS was lost a few years ago. Some books in Danish have been printed or produced on the computer by the Presidential Representative, Mr Flemming Hansen. The new magazine in Danish has been published regularly, and useful contacts between Norway and Denmark continue. In spite of many difficulties, the members in Norway continue to hold public meetings in Oslo and remain active in Bergen. Sales of books in the country have increased. The Section badly needs a building of its own where their library, kept in boxes for years, could serve the public and possibly attract new members. The Swedish Section's summer school, with 35 members, was held in a beautiful place on the west coast, and a mini-school on the *Bhagavadgitā* took place in Stockholm. The TOS in Sweden helps an orphanage in Latvia.

The headquarters of the Icelandic Section attracts both members and the public to a variety of events which seem to be invariably warmed up by coffee, tea and cakes. The summer school, with 40 members, is reported to have lasted from 8.15 in the morning up to the late summer night, which probably means midnight or after! The General Secretary reports that public interest in theosophical work in Iceland is growing and activity within the Icelandic Section is very lively.

The year is said to have been good for the Lodge in Vienna, with active discussions on varied themes. There are also two other Lodges in Austria. In two study groups in Hungary a concentrated attempt was made to plumb the contents of the booklet *The Foundations of Esoteric Philosophy*, particularly in relation to everyday life. In Slovenia the work is handicapped, as suitable premises for meetings are lacking. Regular summer schools are held, often with Miss Mary Anderson giving lectures.

Several new books have been published in Italy, which has 1,251 members and is the largest in Europe. Their magazine is mailed to all members and an equal number of non-members. Two stalwarts, Dr Edoardo Bratina and Mr Bruno Giolo, passed away. The former was General Secretary and Editor of the Section's magazine for many years, and the latter was its Treasurer. Mr A. Girardi,

the present General Secretary, spoke at a meeting organized by the Centre of Studies on New Religions at the University of Torino on 'The Secret Doctrine: Esotericism, New Age, Theosophy'. Prof. P. Krishna was invited by Lodges at several places to lecture.

The report from Portugal says that they were pleased to have the Chairman of the European Federation, Miss Tran-Thi-Kim-Dieu, as a guest lecturer after her participation in the Spanish summer school near Barcelona. She again travelled to Eastern Europe to direct studies on At the Feet of the Master and Vivekachudāmani, and conduct a seminar on 'Theosophy in Daily Life' at Magnitogorsk in Russia. A similar programme in Moscow included the study of discipleship as explained in The Mahatma Letters and a seminar on 'The Spiritual Regeneration of Mankind'. In addition, she led a four-day seminar on 'The Ethical Basis of the World Religions' in Dnepropetrovsk (Ukraine). A Charter has been issued to constitute the first Lodge in Russia, the 'Blavatsky Lodge', at Magnitogorsk.

Covenant Lodge in Israel organized two seminars, one with about 230 participants and the other with more than 300. They are attempting to introduce Theosophy to the younger generation. Members' meetings are held every fortnight, and every month there is an excursion to study and meditate in the midst of Nature. Miss Anderson visited Tel Aviv, and her seminars and lectures were much appreciated.

The East and Central African Section comprises four countries -Tanzania, Kenya, Zambia and Uganda - and has at present 476 members, out of whom 239 are in Kenya. The revival of the TS in Uganda has borne fruit, and we are informed that in all likelihood the Nile Lodge in Kampala will soon reopen. In Kenya, seminars were held at Embu and Mombasa. The active Lodges are in Mombasa, Nairobi and Nakuru. Others meet from time to time. The National Lecturer, Mr Reuben Thuku, addressed as usual a number of educational institutions in Kenya and Zambia. The sale of books has increased in Kenya, and the TOS is active in Nairobi, Dar-es-Salaam and Voi. In Nairobi alone, six tons of foodstuff and second-hand clothing were distributed to children's homes and other deserving institutions.

The TS in Southern Africa lost two stalwarts: Mr Arthur Bunton, former General Secretary, and Mrs Louise Kleingeld. Useful weekend retreats were held in the Pretoria area. The General Secretary, Mr T. G. Davis, lectured in Lenasia, where the recently formed centre is progressing well. The English-speaking West African Section has 323 members. Their annual convention centred on 'The Work of the TS in the Next Century'. Every year a course is given for workers, particularly linking theosophical teaching with daily life. For the first time an annual Convention was also held in Cameroon, with the theme 'Human Rights and Conflict Resolution'. TPH Adyar sent a gift of books to Taimni Lodge in Nigeria, some of which have been donated to the Public Library there. The Section's

bookshop in Accra is ordering more books than before from our TPH.

A full report of the work done in French-speaking West Africa is not available, but we are informed that The Key to Theosophy was studied in Lodge Amour in Togo, and a three-day seminar took place in their Theosophical Centre to study the qualifications for the Path and the symbolism of the Tree of Life. A committee has been set up within the Lodge to organize studies and train workers. There are only 25 members in Togo, some more in the Ivory Coast, and a few French-speaking members in other countries attached to the French Section.

The work around the world owes much to the travels and talks of some dedicated members, all of whom it is impossible to list or even know. But we thank them all and also others who organize, extend hospitality and otherwise support the lecturing programmes. The Vice-President, Miss Mary Anderson, travelled for three months this year in Europe, giving talks, conducting seminars, and advising members. Her tour included Scotland, Israel, Italy, Slovenia, Holland, Germany, Switzerland and Austria. I was also in Europe for over two months. After the centenary celebrations of the French Section, I was at the Dutch, German, English, Swedish and Spanish summer schools, and visited Finland briefly.

Later I conducted a study course at the Indian headquarters in Varanasi, and participated in some Federation conferences within India. Miss Joy Mills lectured in various places in the United States, apart from her tour of Australia and New Zealand. Miss Tran-Thi-Kim-Dieu travelled in New Zealand, as already mentioned, in addition to travels in the course of her duties in Europe, and visited the Philippines.

The Theosophical Order of Service is becoming more active everywhere. I urge all members to subscribe to the magazine of the Order, *The Service Link*, and support the Order. Awareness and action are inseparable. Our awareness of the unitary nature of life is sterile if we fail to be compassionate and care for our fellow human beings and all living creatures.

At Adyar, there has been much development. The Library computerization is progressing, and its new publications included the well-known hymn to the deity of Tirupati, Venkateśa Suprabhātam. We lack scholars deeply versed in Sanskrit literature, especially since the departure of Dr S. Sankaranarayanan. We earnestly hope learned Sanskritists would be forthcoming for the research and publication work.

Miss K. Jaishree and Mr S. M. Amarnath Rao have been steadily working at the conservation of material in the Archives, a work which may have to go on for a few years. Mrs Helen Jamieson has been dealing with correspondence and doing the research needed to answer queries. Mrs Izar Tauceda returned from Brazil to proceed with the cataloguing work. All these aspects of the archival work will need attention for an extended period.

The first School of the Wisdom

session conducted by Miss Mary Anderson from January to February 1999 was dedicated to the fundamentals of Theosophy. In the afternoons in-depth study of the Three Objects of the Society was taken up. This course was much appreciated and we hope to have more such courses later on. Early in September, the Venerable Professor Samdhong Rinpoche directed a Spiritual Retreat and delivered two well-attended public lectures in our Hall. The uplifting atmosphere of the meetings deeply touched the participants. From the beginning of November up to the first week of December another session took place with the theme 'Awakening to Truth', which dealt with the Advaitic, Buddhist and Yogic points of view, expounded by Professors Ramachandra Gandhi, Krishnanath and T. R. Anantharaman respectively. I presented a theosophical overview. Several others also contributed to the programme.

The Theosophical Publishing House published Prof. P. Krishna's lectures on Right Living in Modern Society. Two other books are almost ready, namely Science and the Sacred by Prof. Ravi Ravindra, and Essentials of Occult Chemistry and Modern Science by Prof. H. J. Arnikar. TPH sales have improved and the circulation of The Theosophist is slowly increasing.

For the first time since 1882 the water supply to residents had to be rationed because the water level has been decreasing as the neighbourhood population has increased. Monsoons are also erratic. We are trying to arrange the water supply from existing

wells in different parts of the compound, instead of drawing it from a central source. The decades-old metal water tank in the main estate may have to be replaced, involving very heavy expenditure. Improvements have been made in Leadbeater Chambers, and the installation of toilets inside the bathrooms has been particularly welcomed. More first floor constructions have been added in the Quadrangle area to accommodate Convention delegates. Some buildings have been thoroughly renovated and several others, including the Headquarters building, will be repaired in the coming year. The garden work is also improving. Rapidly growing vines and weeds have been largely eradicated, involving arduous work. Measures have been taken to harvest water and to prepare sufficient compost for our plants. A qualified horticulturist is advising the department.

The activities carried on under the aegis of the Olcott Education Society are proceeding well. A new administration consisting of Mrs Aruna Ratnam, Director of the Olcott School, Mrs Lakshmi Suryanarayana, Headmistress, and Mr G. Gautama, Secretary of the School, has upgraded the level of education. arrangement has released Mrs Padma Sreenath to developing the teacher orientation programmes of the Banyan Centre for Educators. The Social Welfare Centre and HPB Hostel are running satisfactorily. Many members felt that we should not have a hostel only for boys, but do something for girls as well; so we are inaugurating a Vocational Training Centre for Women with Mrs Lakshmi Narasimhan as Coordinator. Here young women will learn to do acceptable household work, enabling them to obtain good employment.

In the Besant Scout Camping Centre we have had 3,608 scouts, guides and children from various institutions. A programme called 'What Price Beauty?' was conducted for children from ten schools, to make them aware of the need for compassion towards animals. Children benefit greatly by spending some time in the midst of Nature, in the quiet and beauty that is unique to the compound. The adverse impact of a crowded urban environment may to some extent be counteracted when they learn to respond to Nature.

We were happy to welcome Mrs Dolores Gago at Adyar in April to succeed Mr Conrad Jamieson as Secretary of the Society, since Mr Jamieson was in need of a respite after many years of labour. This is the second time in the last few years that the Latin American area of the Society is represented among the principal officers. We are also happy to have with us Mr M. Dharmalingam, who is

now the Superintendent of the Maintenance Department. The addition of another civil engineer besides Mr Kousik Krishnan will speed up renovation and repair work.

In conclusion, I would like to mention that the work of the TS will have to go on for many more centuries. At times people ask, 'What has the Society done in the past 120 years?,' not realizing that a century is too insignificant with reference to the change in the consciousness of humanity on which the Society is engaged. For millennia the ego sense has been developing until at present it has reached such proportions that enormous harm is being done to the planet itself, along with all its inhabitants. This trend cannot be reversed in a short period. Let us continue to work therefore with patience and faith in the ultimate destiny of humanity, knowing full well - by intuition rather than reason that goodness must triumph and truth will conquer. Humanity will transcend its present unhappy stage and pass into the bliss and light of the worlds of perfection, and we are privileged to share in however small a measure in bringing this about.

#### THE TREASURER'S REPORT

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# ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 1999

#### TREASURER'S REPORT — 1998-99

The Income and Expenditure Account of the Society for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 1999 shows a surplus of Rs. 10,422/-. The important features of the year are as follows:

#### A. Income:

The gross income of the Society for the year is Rs.10,181,800/-. This is mainly income on investments and to some extent the realization of fees and dues from the Sections. There was considerable fall in interest rates in the recent past and a further fall is expected. This may affect the income from investments in the coming years. The surplus in the Theosophical Publishing House has gone up due to the increased sale of publications as reflected in the accounts. The selling prices of our publications have been maintained at reasonable levels to ensure that they are affordable to our members and the public.

#### B. Expenditure:

The gross expenditure of the Society is Rs. 10,171,378/- and the broad details are as under:

Departments (Net Expenditure)	4,237,915
Charitable Work	1,146,502
Propagation of Theosophy	1,186,253
International Offices	467,528
Establishment	1,623,510
Other Expenses	348,134
Depreciation	1,161,536
	10,171,378

#### 1. Departments (Net Expenditure):

The net expenditure of the departments for the year is Rs. 4,237,915/-, compared to Rs. 3,498,033/- for the previous year, an increase of Rs. 739,882/-. This is mainly due to increased maintenance works. The details are as follows:

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

The coplical Society for Africa, Ed Africa, Se	Year ended March 31,1998 Rs	Year ended March 31,1999 Rs	Increase/ Decrease Rs
Bhojanasala & Leadbeater Chambers	122,050	256,045	+ 133,995
Garden	632,250	560,502	- 71,748
Maintenance	2,743,733	3,421,368	+ 677,635
	3,498,033	4,237,915	+ 739,882

The deficit in the Bhojanasala & Leadbeater Chambers continues to rise on account of higher boarding cost, whereas the income is more or less stagnant. However, the boarding rates are being reviewed from time to time to contain the deficit. In respect to lodging, while there is a moderate surplus in Leadbeater Chambers, the Bhojanasala account shows a deficit as the charges collected are moderate compared to actual amount spent on maintenance.

The net expenditure in the Garden Department has come down compared to the previous year but further measures are being taken to improve the ground water level, eliminate unwanted growth such as antigonum & other weeds, build up the nursery, manure the trees extensively, and plant new saplings. Further, Olcott Gardens is being developed as an arboretum and this will result in considerable expenditure being incurred over a period of time on the project. These factors are likely to contribute towards higher deficits in the Garden in the short run.

In respect to the Maintenance Department, the deficit has increased significantly due to major repairs and renovation work taken up during the year. The important buildings renovated include Leadbeater Chambers, Old Quadrangle and Manjeri House. In addition, inflation has also contributed to the overall increase in the expenditure of the department.

#### 2. Charitable Work

The amount spent on charitable work was Rs. 1,146,502/- against Rs. 204,808/- for the previous year. This represents mainly education and to some extent medical aid and animal welfare. The outlay on education is likely to go up significantly in the near future as some more classrooms have been taken up for extensive renovation and the expenditure on this account alone comes to over a million rupees. In addition, the Society is funding any shortfall in the running expenditure of the School, Hostel and Social Welfare Centre. The expenses on Animal Welfare work will go up steeply in the coming years and a suitable provision is being made in the budget.

#### 3. Propagation of Theosophy:

The net expenditure on propagation of Theosophy for the year is Rs.1,186,253/-, which is in line with the previous year. This is accounted for mainly by the deficit in the Adyar Library and Research Centre of Rs. 862,754/- and Rs. 169,639/- in the Vasanta Press.

#### 4. Other Costs:

The Establishment Cost has gone up by Rs. 240,674/- due to increased expenditure in the Housekeeping and Security Departments.

#### C. Capital Expenditure:

During the year the amount spent on Capital Account is Rs. 1,646,244/-. It mainly represents the cost of a lift and related civil work at Headquarters, residential quarters at Besant Gardens and addition of a new machine in Vasanta Press.

The budget for the coming year includes the cost for providing a lift at Leadbeater Chambers besides construction of other buildings. Provision is being made for new printing machines at Vasanta Press.

#### D. Funds:

The overall financial position of the Society continues to be satisfactory. During the year, the Adyar Besant Commemorative Fund rose from Rs. 34,551,039/- to Rs. 34,730,885/- and Other Funds from Rs. 44,407,566/- to Rs. 51,731,653/-.

#### E. Acknowledgment:

On behalf of the Society, I take this opportunity to express my gratitude for the continuing support of the members throughout the world.

Chennai December 1999 D.K. Govindaraj Hon. Treasurer

#### FEES AND DUES RECEIVED (From 1 April 1998 to 31 March 1999)

1	Name of the Section	1997-98	1998-99
	Scholada	Rs.	Rs
Theosophical Socie	ty in: Africa, East and Central		
- mood parties	Africa, South		
	Africa, West		
	America, Central	1,509	684
		155,729	
	Argentina	1,057	3,826
	Asia, South-East	97,175	106,921
	Australia	7,796	100,727
	Austria	25,901	26,738
	Belgium		17,73
	Bolivia	16,949	
	Brazil	551,423	0.50
	Canada	3,424	8,58
	Chile		20,42
	Colombia	1,696	
	Costa Rica	5,189	2,378
	Cuba		
	Denmark	4,294	6,79
	England		34,140
		57,641	56,439
	Finland	57,041	3,98
	France	36,226	50,77
	Germany		
	Greece	21,069	10,33
	Hungary	7,092	20.40
	Iceland	16,159	20,420
	India	44,691	30,172
	Indonesia		
	Ireland, North		
	Ireland, Republic		4,13
	7. 1	52,832	410
	Ivory Coast	732	20,80
	Mexico		178,58
	Netherlands, The		
	New Zealand	21,537	34,87
	Norway	13,459	2.10
	Pakistan	3,450	3,10
	Peru	29,183	14,58
	Philippines, The		
	Portugal	28,375	
	Puerto Rico	21,119	
	Scotland	3,455	44,51
	Slovenia	3,334	4,13
		27,808	30,09
	Spain	27,000	
	Sri Lanka		25,12
	Sweden	40,988	
	Switzerland	13,020	
	Togo		401.61
	USA	307,883	401,51
	Uruguay	21,556	25,36
	Venezuela	2,235	3,17
	Wales	1,831	1,25
I addes attached to		9,980	8,88
Lodges attached to		26,707	28,11
Fellows at Large		1,684,504	1,469,03
		1,004,004	1.407.03

#### THE THEOSOPHICAL

**BALANCE SHEET AS** 

Year ended 31-03-1998	LIABILITIES	Schedule No.	Year ended 3	1-03-1999
Rs.		Million, Bullion	Rs.	Rs.
	General Fund:	Anth Anth A	for the	
26,669,056	Balance as per last Balance Sheet	San Indian	27,585,099	
	Add: Transfer from Adyar Estate	A vistor &		
300,000	Improvement Fund	Austria	511,425	
302,247	Add: Capital Receipts	Bolgium	37,500	
	551 423	Teres		
313,796	Add: Surplus for the Year	mana 5-4	10,422	senditure.
27,585,099		Came		28,144,44
	888.1	Colquella		
	WILE	Coma Ling.		
	1 100	Cuba		
34,551,039	Adyar Besant Commemorative Fund	Penns Russ	1,856,3767-3	34,730,8
44,407,566	Other Funds	5	resolintal de	51,731,6
4,109,515	Current Liabilities and Provisions:	6		4,213,74
40000	Committee of the second	(Recood	ing it left at de	
	190.1	San Brown House	prede for new	
	10,139	leeland		
	100.54	Indian		
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		most handsof		
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	21.537	South Thorn		
	13,459	cural.		
	STATE OF LAND ASSESSMENT OF THE PARTY OF THE	Spice exhibition	a new presidents	
	181,95	Date Date		
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	28,075	b gutred.		
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	THE RESERVE OF THE PARTY OF THE	Scotland	1900 Dean	
	The state of the s	Sleven a		
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110,653,219	888.08	Sit Las sis		118,820,73
110,000,01217		Charles and a contract of		220,020,70

CHENNAI 16-10-1999

#### SOCIETY, ADYAR, CHENNAI 600 020

#### AT 31ST MARCH 1999

Year ended 31-03-1998		ASSETS	Schedule Year ended 31-03-19 No.		03-1999
1	Rs.			Rs.	Rs.
	17,390,922	Fixed Assets	1		17,091,164
	234,345	Investments:(At cost)	interiority is professority to bester than the star than	da menzon	
	405,000	In Scheduled Banks, Financial Institutions, Public Sector		005,888	
	8610	Undertakings and Units with	1 commen	M 35204 E	
	85,099,915	Unit Trust of India		Haser	94,109,722
	1,395,01		after Weight	ino I	
	E20,018		entiaW login	in instruction	
	21,259		0.00	E TELL	
	000,700		rome Ormida A. health M. Her wassers	172.70	
	28,600	Current Assets, Loans and Advances:	site of hour south it.	b	
	2,126,142	Stocks	2	2,302,815	
	997,623 4,378,747	Sundry Debtors Cash and Bank Balances	3	1,126,882 3,542,492	
	659,870	Loans and Advances	1 4	647,655	
	8,162,382	Louis and Advances	Looft tidos and school?	1 AND 18	7,619,844
				201/100	4
		(confidence)	Mirespendit to soltene	200	
	2012,734	000	District and Brancasta S	N	
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	140,296		established the trivial	116282	
	1,675		be aughy States & Center	ALTES T	
	622,012			Theorem.	
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	255,227		10000	Present A	
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	E19,19/c			0100.00	
	1 020,1/12		Tenantical Section and Co.	Tream -	
	TYT, fee		See also Department	534,115	
	110,653,219			863.537	118,820,730

FRASER & ROSS

Chartered Accountants

D. K. GOVINDARAJ Hony. Treasurer

#### THE THEOSOPHICAL

#### INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

Year ended 31-3-1998	EXPENDITURE	Year ended 31-3-1999	
Rs.		Rs.	Rs.
		man   manual 1	
******	Departments:(Net Expenditure)		
122,050	Bhojanasala & Leadbeater Chamber	256,045	
632,250	Garden	560,502	
2,743,733	Maintenance	3,421,368	
3,498,033		210,000 21	4,237,91
	Charitable Work:	17.706	
109,713	Animal Welfare	110,053	
832,971	Education	808,405	
131,994	Welfare Grants	21,254	
97,531	Free Dispensary and Medical Aid	157,050	
23,000	School Fees and Books	58,600	
20,942	Social Welfare Work	23,303	
20,579	Others	10,320	
1,236,730	Fill and the property of the p	1,188,985	
31,922	Less: Transfer from other Funds	42,483	
1,204,808		BECSEN B	1,146,5
	and thousand a record		
	Propagation of Theosophy:(Net Expenditure)		
744,669	Adyar Library and Reasearch Centre	862,754	
38,102	The Theosophist and Adyar Newsletter	-50,345	
95,997	Vasanta Press	169,639	
72,382	School of the Wisdom	47,119	
290	T. S. Worker's Training Camp	24,220	
26,010	Information and Public Relations	7,118	
116,282	Archives and Museum	140,290	
42,315	Theosophy Science Centre	9,678	
1,136,047 290	Less: Transfer from Other Funds	1,210,473 24,220	
1,135,757	Less: Transfer from Other Funds	24,220	1,186,2
1,133,737			1,100,43
	International Offices:		
62,638	President and Vice-President	56,575	
263,319	Treasurer	255,217	
155,713	Secretary	155,736	
481,670			467,5
	Establishment:		
124,953	Headquarters	125,539	
66,894	General Manager's Office	77,873	
212,830	House Keeping Department	341,922	
206,517	Sanitation Department	191,059	
771,642	Security Department	887,117	111
1,382,836			1,623,51
7,703,104	c/f		8,661,70

#### SOCIETY, ADYAR, CHENNAI 600 020

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 1999

Year ended 31-3-1998	INCOME		Year ended 31-3-1999		
Rs.			Rs.	Rs.	
	Propagation of Theosophy:(Net Income)		101,700		
152,535	The Theosophical Publishing House	revenue S auto		465,459	
141,404	General Donations	to the same of	1000	197,437	
8,395,716	Interest	Capital Cook Reports	200,02	7,832,702	
1,684,504	Fees and Dues	e-3.5 to	110,04	1,469,035	
84,000	Licence Fees	exelT letro p.S	203,861	84,000	
342,989	Miscellaneous Receipts	equity 48	229.1	133,167	
		Disposition of C	- ment		
		Marc Co Departe	208.00		
		annualis M	\$20,67		
		A day Estina Improvious Po	000,004		
	Land to the state of the state	Grand Brancher Scale	\$10.00		
			BLASS		
		Section of Course Course and Co.	Section		
10,801,148	of this Advanta This W	c/f	-	10,181,800	

#### THE THEOSOPHICAL

#### INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

Year ended 31-3-1998		EXPENDITURE —€ontd	Year ended 31-3-1999	
R	7,703,104	ы	Rs.	Rs. 8,661,708
		Other Expenses:	SULLYAL THE	
	29,729	Insurance	6,379	
	56,000	Legal and Court Expenses	42,520	
	40,657	Audit Fees	49,661	
	198,838	Rates and Taxes	128,472	
	1,055	Bank Charges	7,227	
	1,143,311	Depreciation	1,161,536	
	37,996	Motor Car Expenses	19,411	
	76,662	Miscellaneous	94,464	
	400,000	Adyar Estate Improvement Fund	200	
	800,000	Garden Development Endowment Fund	_6,0	
	2,784,248		5,119	1,509,670
	313,796	Surplus transferred to General Fund	100,000	10,422
	T. 124.017	L. managina man	10271,473	
	128.75			
	301.510		Sept.	
	- 195.715 983.770			
		2 de la constante de la consta		
	195,000		125,000	
	214,185		30390	
10,801	148		180.00	10,181,800

CHENNAI 16-10-1999

#### SOCIETY, ADYAR, CHENNAI 600 020

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 1999

Year ended 31-3-1998	INCOME	Contd.		Year ended 31-3-1999
Rs. 10,801,148	Propagation of Theresping Therespin at Publishing Roses (decrea) (decrea) Septimized Processed Decrea Septimized Processed Decrea Execution Proc Miscolar Processed Turnipal State Station	000.80 ps 000.00	b/f	color (C) color color C von L c c C c
	BEADQ		plessed Transpla fat punch; test Costs	NO.
	ADYAR KE		Transplain and View of the Vie	0.6
			affilia repeated a special principal special principal strategical con- strategical con-	Accel Series Series Offices
			options con location flyes and liquis	Place Ings. Place Voted
		constitution of the consti	interestable science restable actual acquaid	
10,801,148				10,181,800

Notes on Accounts form part of this Accounts. This is the Income and Expenditure Account referred to in our report of even date.

FRASER & ROSS Chartered Accountants D. K. GOVINDARAJ Hony. Treasurer

#### THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

#### BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31-3-2001

EXPENDITURE		INCOME	
	Rs.		Rs.
Departments(Net Expenditure)		Propagation of Theosophy	
Bhojanasala & Leadbeater Chambers	66,000	Theosophical Publishing House	542,00
Garden	637,000	General Donations	300,0
Maintenance	3,010,000	Interest	8,000,0
		Membership Fees and Dues	1,800,0
Charitable Work		Licence Fees	120,0
Animal Welfare	400,000	Miscellaneous Receipts	150,0
Education	1,600,000	Net Deficit	316,0
Welfare Grants	100,000		
Free Dispensary & Medical Aid	200,000		
TOS International	25,000		
School Fees and Books	75,000		
Social Welfare Work	50,000		
Others	24,000		
Propagation of Theosophy			
Adyar Library and			
Research Centre	858,000		
The Theosophist and			
Adyar Newsletter	23,000		
Vasanta Press	137,000		
School of the Wisdom	60,000		
Workers' Training Camp	36,000		
Information and Public Relations	24,000		
Archives and Museum	300,000		
Theosophy Science Centre	24,000		
International Offices			
President and Vice-President	75,000		
Treasurer	300,000		
Secretary	180,000		
Establishment			
Headquarters	150,000		
General Manager's Office	90,000		
Housekeeping Department	260,000		
Sanitation Department	210,000		
Security Department	900,000		
Other Expenses			
Insurance	15,000		
Legal Expenses	48,000		
Audit Fees	60,000		
Rates and Taxes	120,000		
Motor Car Maintenance	36,000		
Miscellaneous	120,000		
Depreciation	1,000,000		
Bank Charges	15,000		
	11,228,000		11,228,0

#### **HEADQUARTERS**

ADYAR, CHENNAI 600 020 INDIA

Desperant of Paper State  Desperant of Conference Control  Control  States		
0.20		

#### OFFICERS AND HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS FOR 1999

#### **Executive Committee:**

1. Mrs Radha Burnier

2. Miss Mary Anderson

3. Mrs Dolores Gago

Mr D.K. Govindaraj
 Mr K. Visvanathan

6. Mr Surendra Narayan

7. Mr R.M. Tolani

8. Mr K.P. Shenoy

General Manager: Mr R.M. Tolani

Adyar Library: Director: Dr K.K. Raja

Librarian: Mrs Parvati Gopalaratnam

Bhojanasala: Mrs Sudha Natarajan Garden: Major Arjun Gopalaratnam Housekeeping: Mrs Radha Muthiah Information: Mr Conrad Jamieson

Leadbeater Chambers: Mrs Uma Nilakanta

Maintenance: Mr Kousik Krishnan

Medical: Dr S.D. Inbaraj

Museum and Archives: Mrs Helen Jamieson

School of the Wisdom: Director: Miss Mary Anderson (Jan.-March 1999)

Guest Lecturers: Professors Ramachandra Gandhi,

Krishnanath, and R. Anantharaman (Nov.-Dec. 1999)

Vice-President

General Council Member

General Council Member

Secretary

Treasurer

Security: Lt Col F.J. Challisery

Theosophical Publishing House: Manager: Mr D.K. Govindaraj

Vasanta Press: Mr Harihara Raghavan

#### **OLCOTT EDUCATION SOCIETY**

Chairman: President, TS Secretary: Mr K.P. Shenoy Treasurer: Mr K. Visvanathan

Olcott Memorial School: Director: Mrs Aruna Ratnam

Headmistress: Mrs Lakshmi Suryanarayana

HPB Hostel: Mr Ananta Padmanabhan Social Welfare Centre: Mrs Radha Muthiah

### SUMMARY OF STATISTICS 1999

National Societies and Sections 33				. of	
Regional Associations (formed			Lodges and		No. of
under Rule 35(c)) 8			Section/Area Study Centres		Member
Presidential Agencies 10			28. Ireland, Republic of 1		16
Total Lodges and Study Centres 1,107			29. Italy	50	1251
Total Membership 1998 30,146			30. Ivory Coast	3	39
Total Membership 1999 30,518			31. Mexico	25	300
No. of Lodges and No. of Section/Area Study Centres Members			32. Netherlands	14	537
			33. New Zealand	15	1117
			34. Norway	5	36
			35. Pakistan	-	139
1. Africa, East			36. Peru	3	39
& Central	15	476	37. Philippines	15	276
2. Africa, South	5	268	38. Portugal	12	239
3. Africa, West	15	323	39. Puerto Rico	10151/7	111
4. America, Central	3	36	40. Russia	2	24
5. Argentina	34	348	41. Scotland	9	230
6. Asia, South East	10	380	42. Slovenia	3	55
7. Australia	13	1400	43. Spain	15	348
8. Austria	3	105	44. Sri Lanka	6	103
9. Belgium	8	116	45. Sweden	6	168
10. Bolivia	8	94	46. Switzerland	6	91
11. Brazil	53	886	47. Togo	2	25
12. Canada	6	108	48. USA	121	4179
13. Chile	4	39	49. Uruguay	5	67
14. Colombia	8	72	50. Venezuela	2	26
15. Costa Rica	3	88	51. Wales	2	34
16. Cuba	12	541		1 102	30,298
17. Denmark	1	37		1,103	30,290
18. England	41	968	MITTER THE STATE OF THE STATE OF	L	duan
19. Finland	28	527	Lodges attac	ned to A	dyar
20. France	29	418	1. Covenant Lodge		
21. Germany	8	175	(Israel		72
	7	117	2. Japan	2	87
22. Greece	2	35	3. Korea	1	25
23. Hungary	8	356	4. Fellows-at-Larg	ge —	- 36
24. Iceland	436	12670			220
25. India	10	238		4	220
26. Indonesia 27. Ireland, North	1	27			

#### THE THEOSOPHICAL PUBLISHING HOUSE

The Theosophical Publishing House has continued to progress well during the year 1999. The sales have increased considerably as a result of extending the distribution network. However, there is further need to improve distribution so that TPH publications are available at all major bookstores. The quality of our books is also being further improved, keeping the costs to the minimum.

During the year, TPH brought out twenty-one reprints. Of these, titles like Theosophy Explained in Questions and Answers by P. Pavri and A Study in Consciousness by Annie Besant had long been out of print. The new publications released were Right Living in Modern Society by Prof P. Krishna, and Living Theosophy (Adyar Pamphlet Series) by, Dr John Algeo.

There are plans to produce several new books in the coming year. These include Education, Science and Spirituality by Prof P. Krishna, Science and the Sacred by Prof Ravi Ravindra, and Essentials of Occult Chemistry and Modern Science by Prof H. J. Arnikar. We expect to reprint a minimum of 35 to 40 books

during 2000 to ensure that all the major titles are always available to our members and the public.

Under the Book Gift Scheme, one set of TPH and Adyar Library Publications will be donated to the major libraries in India. Free distribution of books is being done to Sections/Lodges of the Society located in underdeveloped countries, but we are stepping up efforts in this direction to ensure that our books are widely available to those who cannot afford to buy them.

The subscriptions to The Theosophist are steadily increasing with distinct improvement in the quality of the magazine. We are keeping the subscription cost to the minimum in spite of a steep increase in the cost of production, mainly to ensure that the magazine is read widely. The Theosophist has been sent to all the libraries in India free of cost for the past two years. We are also making efforts to enlarge the circulation of other magazines.

Mr D.K. Govindaraj Manager

#### THE ADYAR LIBRARY AND RESEARCH CENTRE

Under the guidance of the Director, Dr K. Kunjunni Raja, the Library has been functioning smoothly with the cooperation of the staff. Dr S. Sankaranarayanan, who joined the Library as Honorary Professor in 1986, and whose valuable services to the Library during thirteen years we appreciate very much, resigned in September 1999 to join Adi Sankara Nilayam in Kerala as head of the Sankara Bhasya Project. He continues to be associated with the academic activities of our library.

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED: The Advar Library Bulletin, Brahma Vidya, vol. 62, 1998 was published late. delay was due to the change-over from manual to computerized typesetting of Sanskrit material. Apart from this volume, two texts were brought out: Sri Venkatesa Suprabhatam, which was edited by Prof T. Venkatacharya of Canada, with text in Devanagari and Roman, and English translation. The other was Sarvadarsanasamgraha (Samkaradarsana) in Sanskrit with an English translation by Dr Klaus K. Klostemaier. The former is a popular hymn of praise to the deity in the Tirupati temple. The latter text was translated into English by E.B. Cowell and A.E. Gough, excluding the section dealing with Sankara's philosophy, which is now provided by Prof Two reprints of Klostemaier. previously published works in the Adyar Library Series are once again available to the public; they are the Sakta Upanisads, translated into English by Dr A.G. Krishna Warrier, and another well-known reciting the 1000 names of Visnu, the Visnusahasranama with commentary of Sankaracarya and an English translation.

WORKS IN THE PRESS: Three Sanskrit in the press, namely are Laksani, Part II; Caturdasa Sarvajnanottaragama, a minor agama belonging to the Saiva-siddhanta School, edited by Pandit K. Ramachandra Sarma; and Madhyamakahrdaya of Bhavya edited by Prof Chr. Lindtner. Two other reprints will be taken up shortly; they are the Goladapika edited by Dr K. V. Sarma, which is a work on astronomy, and the Darsana Manjari written by Pandit R. Thangaswami Sarma. The press is also due to print the Index to the Library Bulletin, vols. 51 to 61 prepared by Mrs Gnanambal Laxman.

IN PREPARATION: An introduction to the revised edition of the well-known Chandogyopanisad with Upanisad Brahma Yogin's Advaitic commentary is being prepared by Dr S. Sankaranarayanan. Dr K. V. Sarma's Descriptive Catalogue of MSS of Astronomy and Mathematics in the Adyar Library is being typeset. Dr. K. Kunjunni Raja is at work on Textual Criticism.

Services Rendered: As usual the Library has been supplying copies of materials it holds to scholars and others. During the year, 57,171 photocopy frames were prepared, out of which 3,777 were frames of manuscripts, and 244 of rare books. In addition, 27,005 frames were prepared for the Library's use.

The Library now has 271 Readers and 396 Borrowers. During the year,

5.215 books were borrowed; and 11,417 books, 59 manuscripts and 37 rare books were consulted by our staff and readers.

Acquisitions and Cataloguing: The Library received gifts of books as usual: 20 from TPH Wheaton; 91 from TPH Adyar; 111 from the International Offices; and 775 from other donors. In addition we purchased 810 books. We were able to access 2,075 books, after fumigation, and catalogued 3,281 books.

REPAIR AND BINDING: The climatic effect on books necessitates deacidification and lamination in many cases. We were able to film-laminate 17 books and tissue-laminate 7 others. The number of books repaired and bound were 982.

COMPUTERIZATION: A major portion of the Oriental Section catalogue was computerized and made accessible to library patrons. Information was taken from the existing card catalogue and verified where necessary. The inventory of books in the Western Section and of journals and theosophical works is not yet computerized.

VISITING SCHOLARS AND STUDENTS: Research scholars from India, 20 in number, and 8 from abroad, used the Library facilities. In addition, 955 other interested persons visited the display room.

Mrs Parvati Gopalaratnam

Librarian

# THE SCHOOL OF THE WISDOM

The first session of the School (from 11 January to 5 February) was directed by Miss Mary Anderson, International Vice-President, who conducted morning classes on the principal theme 'The Fundamentals of Theosophy'. The afternoons were devoted to the three objects and the history of the Society (the speakers being Mrs. Radha Burnier, the President, Dr N.C. Ramanujachary and Dr A. Kannan), to private study, student presentations and visits to different departments of the Society.

Fifteen registered students and seven observers, hailing from India, Australia, Brazil and the Netherlands, participated.

A Spiritual Retreat, attended by over one-hundred participants was held from 4 to 9 September guided by the Venerable Professor Samdhong Rinpoche, Director of the Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies and a trusted assistant of the Dali Lama. The Retreat consisted of early morning meditation periods, talks, questions and answers and discussions, the themes

being human problems and the application of ethics, concentration and wisdom (sila, samadhi and prajna) to daily life. This was not a Buddhist teaching course, nor was any particular school or system of meditation advocated but a gathering devoted to collective enquiry into the self.

The theme of the session held from 1 November to 11 December was 'Awakening to Truth'. The directors being in turn Professor Ramachandra Gandhi, Mrs Radha Burnier, Professor Krishnanath and Professor T.R. Anatharaman, each of whom highlighted different aspects of the subject. An average of twenty-five students attended from India, the United States, Canada, Germany, Switzerland, and Australia.

Mrs Dolores Gago
International Secretary

#### ARCHIVES AND MUSEUM

It is heartening that some part-time assistance has enabled work on conservation to proceed. For several months, too, there has been professional assistance rendered by Mrs Izar Tauceda, a qualified librarian and member from Brazil, in classification and cataloguing. Routine work, correspondence and research proceeded as usual.

During Convention, delegates were able to view an exhibition prepared

with much help from Mr Paul Zwollo of Holland. At the same time treasures in the Museum were made available for viewing, many hundreds of delegates taking advantage of these opportunities.

Photographs, documents, press cuttings and other items are continually added to existing material.

Mrs Helen Jamieson
Officer-in-Charge

# OLCOTT EDUCATION SOCIETY

The activities carried on under the aegis of the Olcott Education Society are proceeding well.

Olcott Memorial High School: The year began with the induction of about ten new young teachers. Mrs Lakshmi

Suryanarayana was appointed Headmistress from 20 May 1999, as Mrs Padma Srinath has taken charge as Director of the Banyan Centre for Educators, with Ms Aruna Ratnam as Director of the School. Academically, the school continues to make progress in some areas and struggles in others. The 'Teaching English for the Disadvantaged' programme has entered its fourth year, and has received glowing reports in the Hindu and Dinanmani newspapers.

Forty-four students sat for the Tenth Standard public examination, and as in last year fifty percent of the students passed. Students in this standard struggle to cope with three subjects, namely English, Mathematics and Science. Most teachers and alumni feel that the foundation in these subjects at the middle level is rather weak. Hence, from 1999 June the school plans to strengthen the middle school.

Olcott School has always attracted a number of voluntary agencies who have helped to enrich the learning experience of the students in the school. Madras Craft Foundation trained a group of students in Ooyilattam, which they performed both in the school and outside. Students benefited from visits to the National Children's Science Congress. A group of Ashok Leyland employees helped to create awareness in our students about safe driving practices and observing traffic rules. They also celebrated World Food Day. Counsellors from T.T. Ranganathan Clinic have been helpful in dealing with cases of emotionally disturbed children. This cooperation is expected to continue.

Sankara Medical Trust in Besant Nagar has been conducting regular medical checkups in our school. This year, the doctors who examined the primary school children found very few suffering from malnutrition, so prevalent among the underprivileged everywhere.

Mr Govindan, the gymnastics coach from the State Association, has coached our students for the past four years after 4 p.m. on weekdays. This year, eight students participated in the state-level competitions and one, G. Suresh of Sixth Standard, went to Calcutta to represent Tamilnadu.

More teachers from the school than before participated in the TS Convention activities this year. They also enjoyed interacting with distinguished visitors to the school.

The high school classrooms and the office block have been renovated. Further work is going on to improve the kitchen roof and other classrooms.

HPB Hostel: The year has been an eventful one for the students of the Hostel, who numbered around twenty-five. The ages of the boys range from ten to seventeen.

The food has remained simple, tasty and nutritious. The basic menu consists of rice, sambar (a sauce made of pulses), vegetable and buttermilk. The students eat well, but have learnt not to waste. This year, they cooked their own food when the cook was on leave. One of the older boys helps the Warden

with the accounts, thus learning a valuable skill. More participation in the running of the hostel and involvement in productive work in other activities of the society are directions for the future.

The students went on a trip to Bangalore for six days, as guests of the Valley School of the Krishnamurti Foundation. They participated in the art and craft fair of the Valley School, interacted with their students and teachers, visited a wonderful science and technology museum and had a very good experience.

The Warden's role is moving away from merely supervising the students to the more holistic role of maintaining an atmosphere of affection and happiness.

Social Welfare Centre: The Centre is working satisfactorily under the supervision of Mrs Radha Muthiah. with about one-hundred children of pre-school age on its rolls. As usual, festival and special days were celebrated. A stall displaying items produced at the Centre was open during the International Convention. A programme of songs and dances by the children was also organized in the Centre for the delegates attending the Convention. In addition to nature camps, the students visited the snake park, Gandhi Mantapam and other places of interest. administration of the second beautiful Z light

Mr K.P. Shenoy
Secretary, Olcott Education Society

# BESANT SCOUT CAMPING CENTRE

The camping centre came into existence when Mr G. S. Arundale was President of the TS. It is fittingly named after Dr Besant, who started the scout movement in India, initially by holding a meeting near the great banyan tree at Adyar. At that time, Lord Baden Powell, the founder of scouting, was of the view that Indian children were unfit to participate in scouting. Annie Besant proved he was wrong. The scout movement she started developed all over India with

the assistance of Mr Arundale and many other members of the Society.

The Besant Scout Camping Centre is a beautiful place at the southern end of Olcott Gardens. Almost every weekend there are children and young people enjoying its natural environment. Although it was originally established for scouts and guides, in recent years other groups of children from various schools are allowed to camp in the centre. The TS provides tents, vessels for cooking, and

other facilities. Programmes to create environmental awareness, compassion for animals, and so forth are organized by a committee appointed by the TS.

During the past year, 3,608 scouts, guides and other children from various schools utilized the centre. Volunteers belonging to the National Social Service for Students in the neighbouring Avvai Home and Girls' School, camped for ten days and rendered service by planting trees and doing other little jobs.

From another school twenty-five deaf and dumb children were sent to have a unique experience. A special programme called 'What Price Beauty?' was conducted by our committee to selected children from ten schools to help them to be aware of the absolute need for compassion toward animals, and protection from the cruel treatment they receive.

S. Venkataraman Director

#### THE THEOSOPHICAL ORDER OF SERVICE

The Theosophical Order of Service functions actively in sixteen countries in five continents to alleviate suffering and deprivation. Where TOS activity is dynamic and vital, goodwill is generated and many individuals are drawn to examine theosophical teachings.

TOS activities in the following countries deserve special mention: The Philippines has received two major awards in recent years. A new initiative was the construction of a TOS building. In Pakistan, the TOS financially sponsors many hundreds of students and runs a Montessori School for about 125 children of low-income parents. Medical aid is also provided for the aged, widows with

children and others in need bimonthly review entitled The Animal's Friend is published and distributed free of charge. By means of meetings, including talks people films. from deprived backgrounds are exposed knowledge they would not otherwise have. A sponsorship programme run by the French TOS enables 90 children and young adults in different parts of India to pursue their studies. Hundreds of kilos of clothes and medicines are shipped to India and some African countries. Financial donations are also made to institutions in India and Africa.

The TOS is being activated in several South American countries.

The healing ritual is also in use. An essay competition on compassionate service was organized in Argentina. Spanish-speaking members have

responded warmly to the Spanishlanguage pages in The Service Link.

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Mrs Diana Dunningham Chapotin
International Secretary

# REPORTS OF SECTIONS, NATIONAL SOCIETIES, REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS, PRESIDENTIAL REPRESENTATIVES, ETC.

(Where necessary, reports have been translated, edited or condensed.)

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Mex Diena Dunningham Chipoti International Secretary

# REPORTS OF SECTIONS, NATIONAL SUCIETIES, REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS, PRESIDENTIAL REPRESENTATIVES FOR

(Where necessary, reports have been trunclated, edited or condensed.)

#### REPORTS OF THE SECTIONS

# AFRICA, EAST & CENTRAL

This Section comprises Lodges in Tanzania, Kenya, Zambia, and Uganda. The membership at the end of September 1999 was 476.

In Kenya the most active Lodges are in Nairobi and Nakuru. In Mombasa, Kisumu, Voi and Meru the Lodges work irregularly. Study groups meet regularly in Embu, Nyeri and Kisii. Tanzania has two active Lodges in Dar es Salaam and Moshi. In Zambia the active Lodges are at Mufulira and Kitwe while at Kabwe, Ndola, Lusaka and Livingstone there are partially active Lodges. A group meets regularly every month at Kampala, the capital of Uganda, which may in the course of time bring Nile Lodge back into incarnation.

The Section headquarters rotates, and in April 1997 shifted to Tanzania. The National Lecturer, Mr Reuben Thuku, travelled widely in Kenya and Zambia and addressed schools and other educational institutions and appeared on television.

There was an unusual problem in Kenya. A special commission appointed by the government to enquire

into devil worship included the Theosophical Society as one of the organizations that might be involved in such worship. Members in Nairobi appeared before the commission to repudiate the allegations. A letter was also written to the Director of Education in Kenya, as reports in newspapers adversely affected the Society's image.

The Section continues to distribute The Theosophist to State-run libraries and universities. There are wellstocked bookstalls in all three regions of the Section.

The Theosophical Order of Service is very active in several places. Food, clothing, books, etc., were freely distributed to the needy on the Eightieth Anniversary of Nairobi Lodge, which also sponsors students who cannot pay their school fees. Similar work was done in Dar es Salaam. In Voi, the Lodge organizes free medical treatment for the poor. Healing groups are active in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam.

Mr H. G. Devani General Secretary

#### AFRICA, SOUTHERN

We report the sad loss of two stalwart members, namely Louise Kleingeld and Arthur Bunton, the former a General Secretary who did a great deal for the Society in Southern Africa. In spite of their departure Pretoria Lodge continues to be strong under its President, Louise Wade, and her active committee.

The General Secretary visited various places and gave lectures, particularly in Durban where professional work carries him. Cape Town Lodge has made good progress and is looking for ways to improve

attendance. Public lectures and other activities are now regularly held. There are two centres, one at Lenasia and the other at Knysna. Both centres need support in the form of books and visits.

Three successful weekend retreats were held in the Pretoria/Rustenberg area with meditation, silent periods, nature walks, and discussions. The membership has risen slightly from 261 last year to 268 because of the efforts of various Lodges to improve publicity and offer more activities.

Mr T. G. Davis General Secretary

# AFRICA, WEST

Under the umbrella of this Section activities proceed in Ghana, Nigeria, Cameroon, and Liberia. There are fifteen Lodges and thirteen study centres with a total of 323 members, most of whom are in Ghana and Nigeria.

The Annual Convention was held in July 1999 at the Section headquarters at Accra with the theme 'The Work of the Theosophical Society in the Next Century'. The topics discussed included: 'The TS in the Changing World'; 'TS and Religion'; 'TS in the Business World'; and 'Fulfilling Members' Aspirations'.

In Cameroon, the Mezam Lodge held their first Annual Convention in the country on 5 December 1998 with the theme 'Human Rights and Conflict Resolution'

A course for workers was held March 1999 at the Section headquarters with discussions and presentations, which emphasized the application of knowledge to daily life. Books sent from Adyar were presented to public libraries in Nigeria and other countries. The TS bookshop is doing well.

The Section printed Ten Good Reasons for you to Study Theosophy and Theosophy and the Path of Hastened Human Evolution for distribution. As usual the General Secretary, the Assistant General

Secretary and others visited Lodges and spoke to the members. The General Secretary also made a private visit to the USA and made contacts with members at Atlanta, Detroit and those present at the Annual Meeting of the American Section at Olcott, Wheaton.

The work in West Africa is progressing satisfactorily, but is handicapped by lack of finances to sponsor more lecturers. It is hoped that the improved conditions in Nigeria will enable the strengthening of the TS work.

P. B. Kwakyi General Secretary

#### ARGENTINA

In December 1998, Mr Jorge Cesano was re-elected General Secretary. He visited a number of places in the country and also Montevideo, Uruguay. A series of eighteen letters for new members was prepared and sent along with a copy of I. K. Taimni's Principles of Theosophical Work.

There was a gathering of youngsters in November to discuss the Society and Theosophical work. There were also other gatherings, one of them being in the Theosophical Colony in San Rafael in January 1999.

The magazine of the Section was published regularly; it contains two pages for use by the Uruguayan Section.

A bookshop was opened in the building occupied by the General Secretary's office and Publishing House. Two books were published: How to Study Theosophy by HPB and The Human Pilgrimage by Joy Mills.

A study course is being provided through e-mail on 'The Three Fundamental Propositions of the Secret Doctrine'. A training programme for lecturers is being prepared in collaboration with members in Argentina and Brazil.

A court case is proceeding to recover a property donated to the TS many years ago in Rosario.

Mr Jorge Cesano
General Secretary

#### AUSTRALIA

The Annual Convention of the Section was held in January 1999 in Brisbane with the theme 'Seeking the Sacred'. The principal speakers were Dr David Tacey from La Trobe

University and Dr Olga Gostin from the University of South Australia. The Section was happy to receive delegates from Malaysia and Scotland. The National President visited many

theosophical centres, including a new group in Devonport, Tasmania. In April 1999, Miss Joy Mills conducted the Australian School of Theosophy at the Springbrook Centre and also toured the country. Her theme was 'Pathways to Self-Transformation'. The afternoon training sessions were led by Mrs Beverley Champion and included preparing future lecturers. Mrs Hazel Menehira from New Zealand visited Sydney and Gold Coast Lodges. Mrs Linda Harris, Education Co-ordinator, presented talks at many of our centres and assisted the National President in the organization of programmes. There is a Young Theosophists group that meets twice a month in Sydney.

The membership of the Section as of 31 August 1999 was 1,400. There are

thirteen Lodges, six certified groups and three discussion groups. Apart from the centre at Springbrook, the Section benefits from activities taking place at the Mt. Helena Centre in Western Australia and The Manor Centre in Sydney.

Mrs Georgina Fode of the Melbourne Lodge is the National Director of the Theosophical Order of Service in Australia, which has supported the Olcott School in Adyar, education for children in Pakistan, TOS work in The Philippines and a 'Petition to the World Bank' to eliminate debt in poor countries. There are active Round Table groups in Adelaide and Sydney, directed by Mrs Dianne Hames.

Mrs Beverley Champion
General Secretary

#### AUSTRIA

The year was a good one for the Lodge in Vienna, which held twenty-six lectures on a variety of themes including, Theosophy, religion, psychology, mysticism, art, and so on. On 16 November 1998 there was a special celebration of 'HPB and 123 Years of the TS'.

The Lodge in Graz studied The Key to Theosophy every week in addition to other works. In Linz the members met twice a month to discuss such subjects

as 'The Theosophical Society: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow' and 'Esotericism in the Gospels'.

The annual event in Rohrbach took place as usual at the end of August. The topic of the week being 'Theosophy, a Practical Art'. Miss Mary Anderson, Vice-President was the chief guest.

Mr Franz Durkowitsch

General Secretary

# BELGIUM

At the closing of the year there were 116 members in good standing compared to 110 a year ago. The same eight Lodges are at work, four in the provinces and four in Brussels. Two Lodges in the provincial towns conduct their proceedings in Flemish; the others are all French speaking. The subjects of study at present are: The Key to Theosophy; The Yoga Sutras of Patanjali; and I. K. Taimni's The Science of Yoga. One of the Lodges studies Krishnamurti and another one astrology.

Alternating with the public lectures, regular dialogues on theosophical subjects and on the inner life are held.

We had the privilege of a visit from the International President, who presented two lectures in June on 'New Vision, New World' and 'Learning to Die in Order to Live'. Prof P. Krishna visited Brussels in June and spoke on 'Science and Religion' and 'The Quest for Happiness'. We have five eager African members and several other African sympathizers.

Dr H. van der Hecht General Secretary

# BRAZIL

The membership at the end of the year was 886, six less than last year. Due to the financial crisis in the country, we have had great difficulty in collecting dues and exempted 113 members from payment of their annual dues. Regular contact through correspondence is maintained with Lodges and groups spread over the vast area of the country.

The quarterly magazine *Theosophia* is published regularly and distributed to approximately 2,000 people. The first section of the magazine is devoted to translations of the 'Watch-Tower' notes from *The Theosophist* and to translations from Spanish into

Portuguese. TPH published two new books during the year.

Several lecturers travelled throughout the country including the General Secretary, Mr. Ricardo Lindemann. Stress has been laid on the importance of having some meetings for members only.

At the Institute of Theosophy there were two special programmes in February 1999. One was a seminar on 'The Internal Search for Happiness', and the second was Professor Ravi Ravindra's presentation 'Christ and Krishna in the Yoga of Daily Life'.

In July several events took place including: The International School of

Theosophy on 'Challenges in Education, Science and Spirituality in the Modern World' led by Prof P. Krishna; the winter seminar presented the theme 'The Mystery Schools' taken from Clara Codd's The Way of the Disciple; and a gathering of Young Theosophists from Argentina, Peru, Uruguay and the Brazil regions. In September 1999 a workshop was conducted by Carlos Cardoso Aveline on 'Raja Yoga in Practice'.

As a result of a world-wide appeal, many books in various languages were donated to our Section library and we express deep gratitude for this generous help. We plan to make this library an international centre for study and research.

At the Section headquarters in Brasilia, the public lectures are video-taped and sold at low cost to members and sympathizers. There are more than fifty video-tape programmes of professional quality and four-hundred others with simple recordings. We have been granted space on a cable

television channel from 9 to 10 p.m., which provides an opportunity for the TS to communicate with 60,000 families in the Federal District of Brasilia. The above mentioned videotaped lectures of Profs P. Krishna and Ravi Ravindra as well as J. Krishnamurti and other lectures have been broadcast. This project is being expanded to several other cities.

The work of the Theosophical Order of Service is energetically promoted by Prof Aldopho J. Silva. He has established links in various cities. Members also support a home for sixteen children who are looked after by Mrs Zeneida Cereja da Silva in Brasilia.

The Raja Centre in Sao Paulo was the venue for the Summer School, which had 'Universal Transformation' as the theme. Another centre of theosophical activity is the Pythagoras Institute in San Paulo of which Mrs Olinda Pugliesi is the President.

Mr Ricardo Lindemann
General Secretary

#### CHILE

The number of members decreased to 39. There are four Lodges, three of which are in Santiago and one in Valparaiso. The Lodge in Valparaiso has five members only. They have been studying *The Mahatma Letters*, the great religions and other theosophical subjects.

The Section organized commemorations of Foundation Day, Adyar Day, and White Lotus Day.

Once a month there is a peace meditation and from time to time there are lectures, video programmes and so forth for the public. We were happy to receive Mr Juan B. Cassibba from Argentina. Several of our members attended the summer

school and the silent retreat held in San Rafael, Argentina.

Mr Maximiliano Aguilera
General Secretary

# COLOMBIA

The report from Colombia is unsigned. It contains a list of lecturers, Lodge meetings, workshops and study groups without indication of where the lectures took place, what the subjects were and so forth.

The Section commemorated Foundation Day, Adyar Day and White Lotus Day. The magazine containing selections from *The Theosophist* continues to be published.

## CUBA

The work of the Section and Lodges continues as in previous years. The important Theosophical days were celebrated in all places. There was a seminar at Marie Poutz Lodge on karma. A five-month introductory course was given. The Lodges have regular study meetings on Theosophical subjects emphasizing self-regeneration.

In May, Mr Alfredo Puig, President of the Inter-American Federation, presented two lectures. In June, Mrs Rita Maris from Spain conducted a seminar on Tibetan Buddhism and the traditional medicine of Tibet. Among other visitors from abroad was Bishop Johannes van Alphen from South Africa.

The Annual Convention was held in Havana in January with the theme 'The Secret Doctrine'.

The repairs on the headquarters building in Havanna, which is fifty-years-old and was deteriorating, was completed and construction started on the Amor Lodge building in Santa Clara. The money reserved for Adyar was used for these projects with the permission of the President. A donation from the US was also received for this purpose. Until the work on the Amor Lodge is complete, the Lodge meets twice a month in a Masonic building in the city.

Mr Gaspar Torres Martinez
General Secretary

#### ENGLAND

As personal circumstances forced Peter Barton to stand down, Colin Price was elected General Secretary in April 1999.

During the year, thirty public lectures, thirteen seminars, and eight courses were held at the London headquarters. On Foundation Day and White Lotus Day commemorative lectures were delivered by former General Secretary, Adam Warcup. The Blavatsky Lodge and Dhyana Centre meet weekly at headquarters. In addition, nine meditation workshops were held throughout the year.

We were happy to welcome the President of the New York Lodge, Mr Ed Abdill and his wife Mary during twelve days in April. Mr Abdill lectured at five Lodges, led a seminar at headquarters and conducted a residential weekend at Tekels Park on 'Foundations of the Ageless Wisdom'. There are three permanent courses held at headquarters: 'Theosophy: A way to Self-Discovery'; 'The Secret Doctrine'; and 'The Joy of Meditation'. In addition, there was one

course on 'Religion through the Ages'. Krishnamurti videos continue to be popular.

As in past years, there were three members' weekends at Tekels Park: one for the study of The Secret Doctrine, a retreat weekend and a conference on 'Modern Science and Esoteric Philosophy'. The Southern Federation also held two members' weekends, each intended to be a theosophical experience. All the weekends were much appreciated and there is clearly scope for similar programmes in the future.

The Summer School was held at Nottingham University with an average attendance of 100. The theme this year was 'Aspects of the Divine: Goodness Truth and Beauty'. The main speaker was the International President. The Blavatsky Lecture by Harold Tarn was titled 'The Soul's Imperative'.

The membership now stands at 968, a fall of nearly 11%.

Mr Colin Price
General Secretary

#### FINLAND

Two new Lodges were chartered, namely 'Aurinko' (Sun) in Raahe and 'Olcott' in Tampere, one of the three big cities in the country. The Section stays abreast of the times with its Internet pages. Some Lodges have their own websites.

The Annual Meeting was held in Helsinki on 3 April 1999 with talks about the theosophical centres in the world, the work of the European Federation, and Adyar.

The Summer School in Kreivilä took place without foreign guest speakers. The theme was 'The Nucleus of Brotherhood'. Some Lodges have their own summer schools as did the HPB Lodge in Estonia. They were all well-attended. This year many Finnish members attended the Summer School at Naarden, Holland.

In every town where there is a Lodge, public lectures are held regularly with up to fifty in the audience. In Helsinki, during the summer months, lectures are held every other week. The library at headquarters is open every Tuesday evening, except during the summer. There are also libraries in other Lodges.

The Section magazine Teosofi is published regularly every two months and edited by Ms Marja Artamaa.

The number of members is now 527. There are twenty-six Lodges including the one in Tallinn, Estonia, and one study group.

Mr Yrjö Kumila General Secretary

## FRANCE

The membership of the Section has decreased slightly, 418 compared to 434 last year.

The Centenary celebration of the Section was held in Paris in June and inaugurated by the International President, Mrs Radha Burnier, with guests present from the USA, Finland and The Netherlands. An exhibition of interesting materials from the archives attracted attention during that time.

Regular programmes of public lectures, Lodge meetings, seminars and so forth go on as usual. In Paris, a new group is studying topics relevant to ethics. At Le Mans, Persévérance Lodge will hold regular meetings again. For some years their library was the only means of maintaining contact with members and sympathizers because

they had no study meetings. The administrative work of the Section is carried on by a team of voluntary workers.

As a continuation of the Centenary celebration, and exceptionally for the first time, the Summer School of the French-speaking countries was held at the Naarden Centre in July with the International President and Vice-President present. Members from France, Belgium, Italy, Luxembourg, Israel, Russia, and the Ukraine participated. The programme was highly inspiring and the beautiful atmosphere of the Centre was much appreciated by the participants.

Mme Danielle Audoin
General Secretary

#### GERMANY

The Annual Summer School was again held at Lippstadt in July 1999 with more than seventy participants who enjoyed this picturesque little town on the bank of River Lippe. The keynote of the Summer School was 'From Knowledge to Wisdom'. The President, Radha Burnier, was our guest of honour, who lectured and answered questions. Members who do not understand English were delighted to have Vice-President Mary Anderson's fine translations and her stimulating lecture on the theme. From outside the Section we also had Dr Yves Marcel from France and the Austrian and Dutch General Secretaries, all of whom made contributions.

Lodge meetings are held regularly. Some lectures are still being given, but study classes have become popular, where members contribute as a group to the work with discussions under the guidance of a co-ordinator. This involves homework for the members.

Weekend meetings are conducted in North Germany twice a year at Schnakenbek with about twenty participants. Here too, the programme is organized in such a way that there is time for walks and talk in the surrounding park. We are trying to revive the weekend meetings in South Germany previously held at Stuttgart.

The Section magazine Theosophie Adyar goes to German-speaking areas in Europe and Namibia.

Although the work of the Theosophical Order of Service in Germany is not organized, several members are doing their best visiting the aged and handicapped at their places of residence. Tibetan monks and scholars have been supported for many years. Many members and groups participate in a meditation for peace on earth at a specified time. In our Section, as in most others, the number of dedicated workers is limited.

Mrs Elisabeth Schmidt
General Secretary

# GREECE GREECE

All seven Lodges in Greece continue their work except Blavatsky Lodge, which was not active in the last quarter. Their work related to theosophical topics as well as esotericism and philosophy within the limits of the theosophical spirit.

Lectures were given almost every day at headquarters and attendance was satisfactory. All Lodges participated in the celebrations of the important Theosophical days. The Section magazine Ilisos is distributed to members and others interested

in esoteric subjects. The number of subscribers is 1,500.

Mr P. Anagnostou

General Secretary

# ICELAND

At the General Assembly held on 7 May 1999, Jón Arnalds was reelected General Secretary. The activity of the Icelandic Section proceeded harmoniously as in previous years. A variety of programmes took place from the beginning of October until White Lotus Day, which traditionally marks the end of the winter programme. There were lectures, group discussions and meditation classes for beginners as well as advanced students.

Public meetings on Friday evenings attracted forty to sixty persons. On Saturday afternoons there was an open house with short lectures followed by discussion. On Sunday afternoons there was a meditation hour with some instructions given to beginners. On Mondays and Tuesdays study groups meet in the evening. On Wednesday evenings the advanced meditation group meets in silence. This year the

Summer School was held from 24-27 June at Heimar, Hvalfjardarstrond, with about forty members in attendance. The tight schedule included lecture programmes and meditation.

Among them were Brox I. Mayayana

Outside the Reykjavik area three Lodges have been active, meeting once or twice a month. In one instance the meetings are held in a home, another on its own premises, and one at a rented location. General public interest in the TS is growing in Iceland and activity in the Society is very lively.

The Section magazine Gangleri is published in the fall and spring. Although there was a slight decline in the number of subscribers, they account for more than three times the number of members in the Section. Our newsletter Mundilfrai is published three times a year.

Mr Jón L. Arnalds General Secretary

# INDIA

At the Section Council Meeting held on 30 December 1998, Mr S.M. Umakanth Rao was elected General Secretary for three years. The membership records have been thoroughly checked and the total

number of members on 30 September 1999 was 12,670. There was a large number of admissions and also lapses in membership. It is necessary to find out why so many lapses occur and attention given to how admissions are

made. Several Federations lost valuable workers who passed-over. Among them were Bros L. Narayana Reddy of the Karnataka Federation; C. Seshadri, who worked for a long time in the Bengal Federation and later at Adyar; A.R. Bakshi, a former President of the Gujarat Federation and author of several books; S.S. Varma of the Delhi Federation, who also worked at Adyar; and Sister Indira Gupta, who was a worker at the Indian Section headquarters.

The number of Lodges at the end of the year was 405, out of which 340 are active and 65 inactive.

The International President was the chief guest at the Bihar, Delhi and Federations' annual Telugu conferences and at the Eastern Regional Conference at Calcutta. The Vice-President, Miss Mary Anderson, presided over the annual conferences at Bombay and Kerala and directed the studies during the camp held at Varanasi in October. She also presided over the South Indian conference at Advar. Prof P. Krishna was the guest of honour at the annual conference of the Gujarat Federation. I had the opportunity to preside over the annual conferences of the Bengal and Karnataka Federations and visited sixteen Lodges.

A panel of eight National Lecturers toured the country giving lectures and study programmes. They were Bros S.V. Tyagi, Dr A. Kannan, Dr N.C. Ramamujachary, Prof C.A. Shinde, Dr S.R. Naidu, C. Mohapatra, G.K.R.

Patri and Lt. Col. R.G. Bhadbhade. There are also other lecturers who are active in their own areas.

Most of the Federations hold study camps during the year, Karnataka alone holding eight such camps. Although these require considerable organizational effort and financing, they are most useful in strengthening the work and finding new workers. Some innovative work was also done, where participants used most of the time for meditation and silence, while talks and discussion were kept at a minimum.

Most of the Federations have their own vernacular journals. Assam and Kerala Federations published translations of The Textbook of Theosophy in Assamese and Malayalam. Other translations which were published during the year were: Talks on the Path of Occultism and The Voice of the Silence in Gujarati; In the Outer Court. The Seven Principles of Man, Character Building, Invisible Helpers, and three other books in Kannada: Several reprints and a book written by Bro K.G. Bhadbahde were published in Marathi; and Light on the Path, At the Feet of the Master and The Voice of the Silence were published in Tamil under the title Three Gems of Theosophy. Seven books and pamphlets were brought out in Hindi, and The Key to Theosophy in Telugu. The Indian Theosophist is sent to all English-knowing members and also to all district libraries. We are taking

steps to improve the quality of the journal. Copies of the *Theosophical Digest* printed in the Indian Section has increased to 3,000.

The work of the Federations was organized into three zones and conferences were held in all of them to discuss the ways and means of better dissemination and organization. Though the membership is large, not enough work is done and efforts are being made to make improvements.

Three Lodges, namely Ahmedabad, Chapra, and Triplicane celebrated their centenaries. Bhubaneshwar Lodge and Pune Lodge participated in book fairs, which brought the attention of the public to the work of the TS. In Poona more than 1,000 people visited the stall

and received free pamphlets. The Section helped them to meet part of the cost.

At the Section headquarters in October, study took place on the *The Seven Principles of Man* with the Vice-President as the director. She also gave a talk on Annie Besant. In association with the Krishnamurti Foundation of India, we started showing video programmes every Thursday evening.

The Theosophical Order of Service is active in many places as can be seen in the report of the National Director, Mrs Saraswati Narayan.

Mr S. M. Umakanth Rao General Secretary

#### INDONESIA

Our Annual Convention was held at Sala Lodge as in previous years, but consisted only of business meetings with Council members because of the precarious conditions in the country. Eight out of ten Lodges were represented at these meetings and twenty participants were present.

There was a Dialogue of Young Theosophists organized by Dharma Lodge in Yogyakarta with the theme 'Youth Activities in Entering the Third Millennium'. The Dialogue included a 'Review of History', 'Redefinition and Repositioning', and 'Obstructions and Opportunities'. Bro Matius Ali of Jakarta visited Semarang.

There were no new publications, but pamphlets and 100 Years of the Secret Doctrine were issued. The bi-monthly Organization News continues to be published and sent free to members.

One of the premises lost during Japanese occupation was that of Madiun Lodge, which was once active. There was no possibility of our reclaiming ownership. We therefore accepted an offer by the authorities of compensation amounting to Rp. 100 million.

Mr H. M. Soesiswo General Secretary

#### ITALY

The registered office of the TS in Italy has been transferred from Genova to Vicenza. There is a private company called 'Adyar Edizioni'. which publishes theosophical books and is independent of the Society. It published Thought Power, The Ancient Wisdom and The Nature of Memory; and on behalf of the Academy of Theosophical Studies in Trieste, with economic support given by Mada and Edoardo Bratina, the three-volume Talks on the Path of Occultism by Annie Besant and C. W. Leadbeater. Also Dr Bratina's book on J. Krishnamurti and psychoanalysis. The Academy has decided to donate its building to the Italian Section. Our monthly magazine Rivista Italiana di Teosofia has been issued regularly and over 1,000 copies are mailed to members and subscribers

The financial situation of the Italian Section is satisfactory, thanks to the generosity and work of some members in the past. The membership now stands at 1,251 compared to 1,200 last year. There are fifty-one Lodges and eleven study centres.

Ten members left the physical plane. Our very special thoughts are directed to Bros Edoardo Bratina and Bruno Giolo, both stalwarts of the Society for a long period of time. Bro Bratina was an outstanding contributor to our work culturally as well as in many other areas.

Theosophical groups have successfully organized programmes in Torino (Turin), which included an interesting programme on the esotericism of Dante, and Firenze (Florence) as well as other places. Many people participated in gatherings where lectures were given by Bro Bernadino del Boca. These are examples of the work which is being done.

The General Secretary took part in the meeting organized by the Centre of Studies on New Religions at the University of Torino on the subject 'The Secret Doctrines: Esotericism, New Age, Theosophy'. Some scholars of international repute were present.

At the International Centre of Studies of Cervignano founded by Renato de Grandis, many well-known Theosophists like Prof. Phan Chon Ton, Mary Anderson, Conrad Jamieson, and Prof P. Krishna gave lectures. Prof Krishna also lectured in Firenze, Milano, and Aosta.

A delegation of the Italian Section took part in the Summer School of the French-speaking countries held at Naarden.

The Theosophical Order of Service in Italy has supported the printing of theosophical literature for the Eastern European countries and the Olcott School at Adyar.

Mr Antonio Girardi
General Secretary

#### MEXICO

The Mexican Section's work continued in twenty-five Lodges throughout the country. Three new study centres were started, one located in a jail consisting of ten members who meet weekly and have a video-library as their resource for theosophical study. Another group is located in Merida in Southern Mexico and the third is in Mexico City far from the headquarters.

The General Secretary organized two lecture series throughout the year on 'Reincarnation' and 'Karma, the Law of a 1000 Faces'. Another two lecture series for Young Theosophists took place on 'Theosophy and the TS' and 'Man and Theosophy' At the Section headquarters in February, we had a seminar on theosophical teachings and how to teach them, specially meant for presidents of Lodges.

In May, the Inter-American Federation Council met in the City of Mexico during which time we organized public lectures by Alfredo Puig and John Algeo. The Spring International School also took place in May with the theme 'Be True to Your Own Self'. The Autumn School was held in October in Merida, Yucatan, for the study of 'The Cycles of Evolution' directed by the General Secretary. The Winter School in December was on 'Education, Science, Religion, and Fraternity' and was held in a beautiful place near Mexico City and directed by Prof P. Krishna.

We can say that the Mexican Section experienced a year of great vitality thanks to Mr Alfredo Puig, Dr John Algeo, and Prof P. Krishna.

Mrs Lissette Arroyo Jimenez

General Secretary.

# THE NETHERLANDS

Overall, the Dutch Section is doing fine. In October, we conducted a weekend for members to discuss the work of the TS. It was a big success. The members were actively involved, the introductions were very good, and the discussions lively. We are hopeful for the future.

Our Summer School on 'The Mystery of Mysticism' was good. In

the spring we had a weekend on 'Manicheism' and in the autumn another on 'The Kabbala'. These national activities at Naarden as well as our study programmes at Amsterdam attracted good attendance.

We had a book table at the Haag Appeal for Peace, an international gathering. We also participate in other public functions and fairs, which attract the serious-minded. We are working on a Dutch translation of Notes on the Bhagavad Gita by T. Subba Rao. The television interview with Radha Burnier has been broadcast again several times this year. The

Board of the Section meets with Lodge Boards once a year to exchange ideas and discuss the work.

Mrs Ali Ritsema General Secretary

#### NEW ZEALAND

A highlight of the year was the weekend seminar in June 1999 given by the popular and much admired Miss Joy Mills at the conclusion of her brief lecture tour. The subject was 'Intuition and the Creative Imagination: Modes of Knowing'. Much of her material was drawn from The Secret Doctrine and The Mahatma Letters, but her expositions made them easy to understand. The seminar was held in Auckland, but was attended by members from all over the country.

The Convention was once again held at St Margaret's College in the City of Dunedin in January 1999. The guest speaker was Miss Tran-Thi-Kim-Diêu, Chairperson of the European Federation. She also undertook a lecture tour throughout the country. Conrad Jamieson, International Secretary, visited Auckland briefly in January and again in September and presented lectures to several Lodges. Dr P. Krishna, Head of the Education Centre of the Krishnamurti Foundation at Varanasi, was another welcome visitor who lectured in Christchurch and Auckland. Other speakers within the country made regular visits to the Lodges. The larger Lodges have expressed keenness to support smaller ones by providing speakers.

On our website there is a new section on Geoffrey Hodson with pictures of his clairvoyant representations of devas and music forms. Activities of the Lodges and other information are also provided.

The national magazine Theosophy in New Zealand is edited by Hugh Dixon. During the year 137 videos were borrowed from our library and new ones are being added to the inventory. Our Postal Librarian, Desiré Collins has sent out 211 books. Our reference library contains very valuable material.

There are fifteen Lodges in our Section and some study centres. Most Lodges seem to be struggling and the numbers attending meetings are fewer than in the past. It seems difficult to find enthusiastic workers. Membership is now 1,117, an increase of 11 over last year.

Some very long-standing members have passed away, including Mat van Thiel, whose theosophical life went back to the early days at The Manor with C. W. Leadbeater; Leo Schep, who was a stalwart of Tauranga Lodge; and Janny Tabolcai of Dunedin.

Arthur Goodall, National Vice-President, looks after our properties, a task requiring much time and energy, as well as much other work. Graham Eden is a great help as Treasurer. Others including Jenny Sinclair keep membership records and work unselfishly and with dedication at headquarters. I record my heartfelt thanks to them all.

Mr Gavin F. Laurie
General Secretary

# NORWAY

We have thirty-six members, the same as last year. There have been regular public meetings in Oslo, which are advertised on the linked web page of the TS in America. There were some Patanjali group meetings in Oslo up to the end of 1998, and in Bergen activities in which members from a parapsychology group participated.

There has been an improvement in the sale of books and now the Danish books are also advertised in our magazine.

We were disappointed when our high court lawyer pulled out and we could not regain part of any of our previous headquarters at Oscarsgaten. We now have to forget it altogether.

Two unfavourable articles by the previous General Secretary appeared in a widely-read magazine attacking HPB and the Theosophical Society. We

decided that nobody in the TS should respond officially to these articles, but that we should submit articles to the same magazine.

A positive activity was our participation in a book meant for fourteen-year-olds published by Nordic Academic Press in Norway. I did not write the chapter on the Society myself, but communicated extensively with the author who included quotations by HPB in the text, the tabulation of the principles of man taken from The Key to Theosophy, and also our resolution on 'Freedom of Thought' as it appears in The Theosophist. In general it presents the TS very well.

We are still determined to re-build the Section.

Mr Torstein A. Tobiassen

General Secretary

#### PHILIPPINES

Four new study groups were formed this year. We have decided to acquire a residential property near headquarters for full-time workers and volunteers. It may also serve as an alternative site for the Sunshine Montessori Centre, which presently holds it classes at headquarters. For the first time in more than twenty vears, the National Convention was held outside headquarters and was hosted by Bacolod Lodge in November at a 18-hectare farm resort belonging to the President of the Lodge. The theme was 'Live the Life, Serve the World'. The keynote talk was given by Mrs Eugenia Tavao and a public lecture was given by myself titled 'The Purpose of Life'.

The annual dues was increased and will include the distribution of *The Theosophical Digest* and *Peace Ideas* at no cost. The Digest is now printed and circulated in three countries: Philippines, 6,000; India 2,000; Malaysia 1,200.

A significant aspect of the year's work was increased networking activity with other organizations, which resulted in joint projects. The highlights were: joint programmes with the Silsilah Movement founded by a Catholic priest who has been promoting more open dialogue between Muslims and Christians in Mindanao; a workshop in Bangkok organized by Network Cultures where one of our

members presented a paper on 'Spirituality and Social Action'; the Daughters of Charity, an order of Catholic nuns, asked us to conduct lectures and seminars in their schools on 'Self-Transformation and Peace Education'; United Religions Initiative, a world-wide movement invited the TS to participate in their programmes; similar requests from a group of NGOs in Northern Mindanao; and another group in Bangladesh.

At the National headquarters The Secret Doctrine was studied under the guidance of Romy Velarde who also conducted a course on 'Meditation: Its Study and Practice'. During the year, eight Self-Transformation Seminars were conducted in various parts of the country. I also conducted one in Perth, Australia

The Section was fortunate to have Mr Surendra Narayan in the country for some time. He gave three lectures at headquarters, and Mrs Narayan conducted a workshop on service. Miss Tran-Thi-Kim-Diêu who visited Manila in January 1999, also conducted two workshops on 'How to Grow Spiritually' and 'Free Will, Choice and Freedom'. Romy Velardi conducted a highly appreciated seminar to about fifty teachers and administrators from a school in Taytay, Rizal, on 'Inner Awareness'.

We are now finalizing the CD version of HPB's writings and also The

Mahatma Letters. Two radio programmes on 'In the Light of Theosophy' and 'Golden Lessons of Life' continued every Saturday throughout the year. A number of public lectures were conducted at the national headquarters on a variety of subjects.

The Theosophical Order of Service Foundation is now supporting 273 scholars in The Philippines. Two youth camps were conducted and a vegetarian recipe book prepared by Norma Garbanzos of the Bacolod Lodge is being published by our TPH.

The foundation for the effective work in the future lies in training volunteers and workers imbued with the spirit of the theosophical life who are willing to sacrifice time and effort to help others. We are therefore providing a residence for them, training facilitators for the Self-Transformation Seminars, nurturing young people, establishing a theosophical school, and starting new study groups.

Mr Vincente Haó Chin, Jr.

General Secretary

# PORTUGAL

During the year, public lectures and symposia, Lodge meetings and the celebration of important theosophical days took place as usual. Our journal Portugal Teosófico continues with four issues a year and is accepted by the public.

The General Secretary published three small books about the laws derived from the three propositions of *The Secret Doctrine*.

We received a visit from the chairman of the European Federation, Miss Tran-Thi-Kim-Dîeu, who gave a lecture at headquarters and contacted members of the Lodges outside Lisbon.

A meeting in the south of Portugal with members from all over the country is being planned for October 1, 1999.

Dr Humberto Alvares da Costa General Secretary

## PUERTO RICO

We received the visit of Bro Fernando de Torrijos, who presented lectures at various institutions. Seminars on 'Karmic Astrology' and the 'Bhagavad Gita' took place during his visit. Mr Isaac Jauli from Mexico visited us and presented a seminar entitled 'To Die and Be Reborn: a Process of Self-Realization of the Human Being'. We are planning a

seminar for the Caribbean Basin to be held in June 2000. Committees have been organized for the purpose and the focus will be on the Three Objects of our Society in the perspective of the new millennium.

The General Secretary, Magaly Polanco, visited Atma Lodge in Santo Domingo and met its President, Dr Barinas Coiscou, to discuss administrative matters. She presented a Charter to the Nueva Aurora Lodge. Several members of their Section accompanied her and study material from Taimni's book in Spanish was presented to the Lodge. The General

Secretary also visited the Puerto Plata Study Group. Our Lodges in San Juan, namely Voice of the Silence, Morya, Sophia and Universal Flame, and Light on the Path Lodge in Ponce continued with this work. A new study group has been organized in Fajardo, which is in the east of our island.

The Annual Assembly was held in February 1999 and Magaly Polanco was re-elected General Secretary. Our guest speaker was Mr Marcos Ramírez.

> Mrs Magaly Polanco General Secretary

#### SPAIN

The Annual Meeting of the Section took place in the City of Cáceres during Holy Week. The theme was 'The Third Object of the TS' with guest speaker Mr Isaac Jauli. The Summer School was held near Barcelona at the end of August and had as its theme 'Spiritual Re-generation'. The guest speakers were the International President, Mrs Radha Burnier, Miss Tran-Thi-Kim-Diêu and Mr S. Torra Pala.

The total number of members is 354. There are thirteen Lodges and five study groups; of these, Samadhi Study Group has thirteen members and has applied to be chartered.

Contacts have been made in Galicia, where we hope interest can be created.

Dr Angel Rubio and Mr Issac Jauli are in charge of the HPB Theosophical Institute, which endeavours to build better knowledge of Theosophy among the members and create public interest.

The Section magazine Sophia is edited by Mrs Consuelo Buron, who is assisted by a team of members. It is not only circulated in Spain, but in several other Spanish speaking countries. Spanish translations of two books, namely The Light of Asia and Light on the Path are ready for sale. The National Committee continued efforts to recover the property in Alcait near Alicante.

Miss Maria Carmen Cesar Galante General Secretary

#### SRI LANKA

The Charter of the Section was issued by Annie Besant on 1 October 1926 and housed at Besant Lodge, which has the largest number of members and where monthly meetings, discussions and lectures take place. The main thrust of activities centered around the following: rejuvenating the interest of the current members in theosophical activities; increasing membership; monitoring the finances; development of the headquarters; improving the library; and re-activating the Lodges outside Colombo.

Much headway has been made in creating fresh interest in the members through regular monthly lectures and discussions by renowned speakers. An average attendance of twenty is a significant increase over past records. Also, the Executive Committee members have been attending committee meetings regularly. Due to the aforementioned, twelve new members, including two life members have joined the Society, and long-time members, who were inactive are showing more interest. Generating information regularly has also refuelled the confidence of the members. The total membership is now 101.

Stringent measures were taken to monitor income and expenditures. Increasing the rental fee for the meeting hall has helped to increase the income. The recovery of two bad debts incurred in the past has enabled us to increase our investments.

Steps have been taken to re-activate the library service with the assistance of a professional librarian to advise the Society. A library committee was appointed and action was taken to preserve and catalogue the collection of books. Discussions took place about developing the property and various proposals are being explored.

Shanthi Marga Lodge in Galle has currently only eight active members. A personal visit to Perfect Peace Lodge in Veyangode resulted in some TOS activity, but much more needs to be done. Ashoka Lodge in Kandy has not been responsive to our effort.

The Executive Committee has completed the draft of the Constitution Articles & Rules of the Theosophical Society in Sri Lanka to be considered at the Annual General Meeting in March 2000.

The Theosophical Order of Service activity consisted of an ongoing free Glaucoma Eye Clinic at headquarters under the direction of Dr S. Anandarajan. The clinic attracted 128 persons, of which 60 percent were treated at the clinic. A similar programme was organized by the Perfect Peace Lodge where 116 patients were screened and a total of 26 treated. Visitors during the year were: Mr and Mrs Peter Rendel,

England; Rose and Gertrude Excellency Shaun E. Donnelly, Weerekoon, Singapore Lodge; Prof Lloyd Williams, USA; and his

Ambassador of the USA in Colombo. Mr Tudor G. Javewardene General Secretary

## SWEDEN

Our Section has 168 members. Seven Lodges were active and organized lectures on various theosophical subjects, which included themes on practical occultism, Theosophy in everyday life, and meditation

Our magazine Tidlös Visdom (Timeless Wisdom) edited by Barbro Melander appeared four times during the year.

Our Summer School was held at Ljungskile Folkhögskola with our President, Mrs Radha Burnier, as guest speaker with thirty-five members participating. As always we received inspiration and power for future theosophical work. We also had a mini-school on the 'Bhagavad Gita' in Stockholm with fifteen participants. One member attended the European School of Theosophy.

We are working on translations and the next book to be printed will be Ancient Wisdom, Modern Insight by Shirley Nicholson. We are also translating No Other Path to Go by Radha Burnier and have started work on a new edition of The Secret Doctrine. 'Theosophy and the Theosophical Society' leaflets have been printed.

Our bookshop in Stockholm is open three days a week with voluntary help from our members. Our Theosophical Order of Service helps children in an orphanage in Latvia.

Mrs Ing-Britt Wiklund General Secretary

#### SWITZERLAND

No Report

#### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

America is the Section of the TS

The Theosophical Society in founded in New York in 1875. It is the oldest and second largest of the national sections with fifty-four Lodges and seventy-one study centres as well as a large body of members attached directly to the national headquarters.

The Section is dedicated to carrying out the Three Objects and as HPB said, 'to assist in showing to men that such a thing as Theosophy exists, and help them to ascend toward it by studying and assimilating its eternal verities'.

Alongside the Section there are autonomous organization dedicated to specialized work. They include four camps: Indralaya on Orcas Island, Washington State; Pumpkin Hollow Farm, New York State; Far Horizons, California; and Ozark, Arkansas. Other organizations are: Krotona Institute; Theosophical Book Association for the Blind; Theosophical Book Gift Institute; and Theosophical Order of Service.

In September we hosted a conference of the Inter-American Federation at Olcott. Some seventy delegates attended from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Mexico, and Puerto Rico in addition to Spanish-speaking members from the US.

At the end of the year, the membership was 4,171, a slight increase over last year. Of the total membership 48 percent are members-at-large, 37 percent are members of a Lodge, and 14 percent are members of study centres. The largest Lodge in the Section is the nonlocal National Lodge chartered in July 1996 and functioning with 565 members who receive

study papers. The present one being on 'The Pilgrim and the Path: Living Theosophy', based on a revision of a book by I. K. Taimni. Many National Lodge members are also members of local groups.

Fieldwork primarily exists to make speakers available to local groups and intensified notably since the appointment of a Fieldwork Coordinator. A total of 124 programmes were made available with 23 speakers, with an average attendance of 35-40. Requests for National Speakers are received all the time.

Olcott Experience Weekends are designed to familiarize members who have had very little direct contact with the national centre. The fifth and sixth such weekends were attended by 41 members. By visiting various departments, members become familiar with the Olcott resources and staff and also make connections with members from other groups.

The Young Theosophists have been meeting weekly at Olcott since June 1997 and have studied The Voice of the Silence and Whispers from the Other Shore. A national meeting was held at Pumpkin Hollow Farm with Prof Ravi Ravrindra, which proved a great success.

A new programme is Membership Outreach. During the past year it pursued six activities: 1) offering book incentives for membership renewal at the end of the first year; 2) mailing information packets to members of the public who requested TPH catalogues;

3) sending a membership questionnaire to active members and analyzing the responses; 4) planning a brochure/mailer to targeted lists to introduce the Society; 5) making follow-up telephone calls to new members after three months; and 6) conducting a silent meditation before the Thursday evening public programmes.

The public programmes at Olcott begin in September with an Open House. Last fall 325 people attended. The main presentation was 'The Guidance of the Ancient Wisdom: Why Walk the Labyrinth?' Thursday evenings public lectures are held at Olcott throughout the year. Seminars, workshops and classes lasting from one day to several months have been presented. Tuesday evenings we have Olcott Institute classes. In the fall Dr John Algeo and Dr Anton Lysy presented classes on the Bhagavad Gita and the Upanishads. Winter and spring courses were presented on 'An Introduction to the Theosophical Society' and 'Studies in The Key to Theosophy'. Mrs Radha Burnier led a special weekend spiritual retreat for members on 'Inner Revolution through Theosophy'. A total of 261 courses have been offered under the Olcott Institute sponsorship.

The Theosophical Publishing House is the largest of our departments. During the year twelve Quest Books were published and others are in various stages of production for the upcoming year. Nine of our books have

been adopted by the One Spirit Book Club; two as main selections. Two of our books were first-place winners of the Benjamin Franklin Awards, sponsored by the Publishers Marketing Association. Activity is increasing in the sale of foreign rights to our books. During 1998, translation rights were sold in twelve countries.

The Audio-Visual Department produced forty-one new audio titles including a two-tape set of Annie Besant's translation of the Bhagavad Gita. During the year four new videos were produced, including a new series consisting of interviews with Mrs Radha Burnier and Miss Joy Mills, which will be followed by others. The Eternal Quest Series of eighteen television programmes are shown in several places. In addition to the Quest magazine, a members' supplement called The Messenger is published monthly and contains official business matters as well as theosophical articles

The Quest Bookshop advertizes through a radio programme and several print media and has joined the Wheaton Chamber of Commerce.

The American Section is blessed with two organizations that provide financial support, which were created through the foresight of earlier members. The Theosophical Investment Trust was created in 1955 to provide a permanent endowment. When it was created, its governing document and rules of procedure were wisely established to preserve and protect the financial assets of the

Society while providing a substantial stream of income. The other major support organization is the Kern Foundation, a private charitable trust established by a long-time theosophist, Herbert Kern. The Foundation assists

the theosophical cause by supporting educational and outreach programmes of all kinds.

Dr John Algeo General Secretary

## URUGUAY

All the important theosophical days were commemorated. Public lectures were held every Saturday in our Montevideo headquarters, and the problems of our times studied. Young Theosophists had discussions on 'What Youngsters Think About the End of the Millennium', and older members discussed 'Where is Humanity Going?'. Also, there are J. Krishmurti video programmes and a twenty-minute radio talk every Saturday.

We received a group of young members from Argentina in October 1998 and I had discussions with our Young Theosophists. In May 1999 Mr. Juan Viñas of Argentina stayed here for three weeks and gave lectures on 'Initiatic Mysteries: Their Teachings and Discipline'.

The membership decreased by six and now stands at sixty-seven.

Mrs Mercedes Fernandez
General Secretary

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#### REPORTS OF REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

#### AMERICA, CENTRAL

No report

#### CANADA

Membership in the Federation continues to grow at a steady pace. We were pleased to welcome twenty-three new members this year. The formation of the new Metamorphosis Study Group brings us to the level of six Lodges and three study groups.

Our Annual Business Meeting was held in Montreal, Quebec, in French and on the following day in Kirkland, Quebec, in English. The Regional Secretary presided and Mr George Duguay, Editor of our magazine The Light Bearer, was our guest speaker. The theme in both languages was 'Jesus Is Not God And Christ Is Not A

Person'. Several new members attended and theosophical books were on sale, which was a success. The circulation of *The Light Bearer* is increasing. This year it extended its reach into provincial libraries and universities.

In July, Mr George Duguay attended the Annual Meeting of the TS in America at Olcott, Wheaton, on behalf of the Regional Secretary. In September, Blavatsky Lodge welcomed Miss Joy Mills, who gave a presentation on Light on the Path.

Mrs Elizabeth M. Smith
Regional Secretary

# IRELAND, NORTHERN

Work continued as usual during the year. Our public meetings averaged about eight people and our members' meetings had about four to five present. The books studied were, The Real H. P. Blavatsky by W. Kingsland and The Divine Plan by Barborka.

We are in more frequent contact with the Dublin Lodge and they have promised some financial aid. Our premises were accidentally damaged about a year ago, but have since been repaired.

During the past few years, our membership has fallen steadily and sad to say this is still the case. Hopefully it will start to climb pretty soon.

Mr John Douherty
Regional Secretary

# IVORY COAST No Report

# SCOTLAND

The Theosophical Society Scotland has continued to grow and gather momentum over the past year. We have embarked upon a new initiative in Sterling with the aim of starting a new Lodge. Speakers were drawn from several Lodges to give public talks, which in itself is valuable, in that it improves communication between Lodges and unites individuals. A newsletter has been produced entitled Changing Times.

The newly formed, Olcott Lodge has been doing well in Edinburgh, concentrating mainly on meditation and healing. Unfortunately, our other new Lodge at Findhorn has met with difficulties and a programme has yet to

manifest. Glasgow, Inverness, and Dundee Lodges have all increased their membership and very good attendance has been recorded. Edinburgh also enjoyed good attendance, and along with Orient has taken on a strategy to revive its membership. A small study group has been meeting at St Andrews to study *The Key to Theosophy*.

The Annual Convention was held in Glasgow and was a well-attended and enjoyable occasion. Our visiting speakers were Mary Anderson, Vice-President, and Ron Chapman from Canada.

Mr Alastair MacQueen
Organizing Secretary

#### SLOVENIA

The number of members has increased since May 1999 when six candidates joined the Society after two years of study and preparation. The total number is now fifty-five. The new members are all from Maribor, where for seven years members of Surya Lodge have tried to develop a new theosophical centre by giving lectures, arranging meetings with more serious candidates, and writing answers to their questions.

In Ljubljana there was an introductory course for new candidates, a few of whom were from Celje, 70 kms away. We hope that the Lodge in Celje will be revived. In Adyar Lodge (Ljubljana) and Surya Lodge (Koper), work continued smoothly and members met once a week. In Koper they studied Taimni's Self-Culture and Man, God, and the Universe as well as Light on the Path and The Voice of the Silence. In Ljubljana the stress was on

Annie Besant's The Path of Discipleship and Rohit Mehta's Commentaries on Light on the Path. Members discussed in both Lodges the lectures given at the European Congress as well as articles from theosophical magazines. The approach was meditative, trying to bring Theosophy of the heart into practical life. The Summer School had the theme 'The Will-Divine Love' and was conducted by Vice-President Mary Anderson, who gave several talks to members and the public in Ljubljana

and Koper. In February, we arranged a weekend seminar at Soncek and in September another one near Maribor. In July, seven members attended the Workers' Seminar led by Mrs Radha Burnier at Naarden.

Our magazine The Theosophical Thought appeared three times. The Voice of the Silence was reprinted. We still have no permanent home and homelessness is a serious handicap.

Mrs Irena P. Kristan
Organizing Secretary

# TOGO

At the end of October 1998, we began our activities for the year. Lodge Amour took up the study of HPB's The Key to Theosophy. Members all over Togo participated in full moon meditations followed each time by meditation for peace in the world.

A seminar was held at the end of October by Lodge Amour in the Theosophical Centre, Danyi N' Digbe' on 'The Qualities of an Aspirant' and 'The Tree of Life and Its Symbolism'.

This Lodge has a committee to promote study and training through correspondence. The John Coats Lodge in Lomé is dormant.

As socio-economic conditions have worsened, subscriptions do not come in. The TS in France sends us ten copies of their magazine Le Lotus Bleu. The total number of members is twenty-five.

Mr Dam Tsowu
Organizing Secretary

#### WALES

The present membership is thirtyfour. Cardiff Lodge has continued study meetings for members and public talks. The study meetings on the Bhagavad Gita were well-attended. Membership has been fairly steady with one or two joining and a few inquiries. Colwyn Bay Lodge held study meetings in private homes since their premises were sold earlier in the year. For public lectures the local Friend's Meeting House was hired.

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#### REPORTS OF REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Although members try to make
Theosophy known, there has been
little response from the public.

In central Wales, a group meets at regular intervals to study The Key to Theosophy and The Voice of the Silence. Non-members from the Theological College in Lampeter

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showed interest by coming to a few sessions and made valuable contributions. Discussions were lively and sometimes had a meditative quality.

Mrs Ingrid Eberhard-Evans
Organizing Secretary

#### REPORTS OF PRESIDENTIAL AGENCIES

# ASIA, SOUTH EAST

If increase in membership coupled with an increase in the number of regular study classes is considered an improvement, the year was remarkable: 168 new members joined and 44 lapsed during the year, showing a net increase of 124, bringing the total membership to 376 as compared to 252 last year. Bro B. L. Bhattacharya toured Bangladesh giving talks and holding study classes and informal meetings. Fresh enthusiasm was generated and 90 new members joined. A new study centre is coming into existence at Pativa in Chittagong District. Efforts are being made to form a Lodge in Dhaka.

An important development was recovering the Comilla Lodge building founded on 26 May 1889. The building was forcibly occupied by another organization during the 1971 war. It was badly damaged and its valuable library was almost destroyed. After recovering the building, it was repaired and meetings are taking place there. Credit for the recovery goes to Prof Dilip Pandit and Bro Nikhilesh Dutta, Deputy Attorney General of Bangladesh, who happens to be the

President of the Comilla Lodge. The Ven. Monk Dharma Rakshit gave discourses, mostly on Buddhism.

The Singapore Lodge was very active under its dynamic Secretary, Bro Chong Sanne. Weekend seminars spread over two weeks were designed to replace the previous eight-week programme in basic Theosophy. The Mahatma Letters are being studied in weekly classes. Dr. N. C. Ramanujachary, from Adyar, gave weekly talks and conducted a course over five evenings on 'The Philosophy of Meditation' during the month he spent in Singapore. Mr Conrad Jamieson and Mr Vincente Hao Chin. Jr. also gave talks. All this has given new life to the work and resulted in a net increase of 63 members. The Lodge celebrated its 110th anniversary on 23 January 1999.

Selangor Lodge in Malaysia continues its weekly study classes and arranged some public lectures. Its monthly newsletter has been converted to a quarterly. Penang Lodge has monthly meetings. Seramban Lodge and the Bakri Study Centre have sent neither reports nor dues.

Dr C. V. Agarwal
Presidential Representative

# BOLIVIA

The important theosophical days were commemorated and there were eight meetings in which all the Lodges participated. The subjects studied included: 'Human Relations'; 'The Bhagavad Gita'; 'How to Study The Secret Doctrine'. A two-day spiritual retreat took place 36 kms outside the city of Cochabamba and the subject studied was 'Septenary Constitution of Man and Perfections of the Human Being'. On International Women's Day

there was an interesting panel discussion.

Introductory courses on Theosophy are given every Tuesday. Lodge meetings are held every week and the library and bookshop are open every day. Public lectures were arranged on various theosophical subjects.

There was an increase of ten members, bringing the total to ninetyfour.

Mrs Teresa Wayar de Nuñez
Presidential Representative

#### COSTA RICA

Virya, Shakti, and Dharma Lodges met separately each week at the headquarters as do study groups and the Theosophical Order of Service.

Holy Week was celebrated with the theme 'The Voice of the Silence: Study and Commentary' using HPB's The Voice of the Silence and Rohit Mehta's The Creative Silence. The public lectures during the year were fourteen

in number. All the theosophical anniversaries were commemorated.

Our Presidential Agency is functioning well. Because of a generous contribution, Sister Ligia Montiel published a Manual of Basic Theosophy, which will help us with our Theosophy courses.

Mr Jaime Hernandez Hostaller
Presidential Representative

#### DENMARK

The year was in many ways satisfactory. We had sixteen public lectures delivered by members at rented premises in Copenhagen. We would have preferred to see more people, but the entrance fee was enough to pay the

room rental, and the speakers found it rewarding experience to prepare talks.

The small problems we had in the beginning seem to be over and we are in a happy situation.

We have access to all the theosoph-

Danish by Sigrid Müller. I have produced three books on my computer.

It has been a problem for years that the first volume of the Danish translation of Geoffrey Barborka's *The Divine Plan* was out of print, but we inherited money from an elder member who passed away in November and we were able to reprint the missing volume.

We have continued our contact with the Theosophical Society in Norway. They have bought quite a lot of our books and are willing to share the expense of printing some others. In November 1998 we started our new theosophical magazine *Tidens Teosofi* (Contemporary Theosophy), which is published four times a year. Enquirers contact us by telephone and the Internet and we send two small pamphlets, which we have prepared based on quotations from *The Key to Theosophy* and an article by Otto Viking.

We had two members' meetings in our private centre and celebrated Adyar Day and White Lotus Day. Our membership now is thirty-seven.

Mr Flemming Hansen
Presidential Representative

#### HUNGARY

The General Meeting took place on 10 October 1998 where the majority of members were present and the reports of activities and finances were considered. The main focus was the study plan and the location for the meetings. Four members offered solutions by making it possible to meet in their flats until my flat was renovated.

Two study groups and one translation group have continued their work. The subject of study was 'Foundations of the Esoteric

Philosophy', which we tried to bring nearer to everyday life. The translation group worked on compiling a glossary of terms and a booklet was published as a result. Mr László Reicher continued his lectures. Another member and myself participated in the Workers Seminar held at Naarden.

At present we have thirty-five active members; two new members joined in summer 1999.

Mr Thomas Martinovich
Presidential Representative

# IRELAND, REPUBLIC OF

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# PAKISTAN

In Karachi we started holding public lectures off-site in a five-star hotel because the traffic and parking problems as well as the general degradation of the neighbourhood deters people from our Jamshed Memorial Hall. There were fifteen such public lectures, which served to enhance the visibility of the Theosophical Society, but has not yet brought us serious members. Members' meetings, classes and commemorations continue to be held at the Hall.

The study class takes place once a week with an average attendance of ten to twelve members. The library has 250 borrowing members, but many more people use it.

The Karachi Theosophist was published bi-monthly throughout the year and goes to about 100 interested persons apart from the members.

The renovation of the building is going on. The Theosophical Order of Service provides us with support in many ways.

I visited the TS in Hyderabad in April and gave a lecture. The same evening, the renovated Reading Room was reopened. The Lodge does not function in an organized manner and has not held a general body meeting or elections for some time, nor did we receive a report.

In the Sukkur Study Centre, after an initial spurt, interest is levelling off. Mr. Mumtaz Maher is the President and is a keen student of Theosophy. They have been assisted with books from the Australian Section and Blavatsky Lodge, Sydney. Their main problem is finding a proper meeting place. At present they meet at the residence of Mr Maher.

Awareness in the Upper Sindh area has increased, leading to much correspondence. We have launched a Sindhi journal, Achchho Kanwal (The White Lotus), which serves the needs of Sindhi speaking students and enquirers.

Dara F. Mirza for Mrs Gool Minwalla Presidential Representative

# The I Manufacture of the spirit of the second of the secon

We organized two public lectures in October and another two in November 1998. In 1999 there were nine such lectures, thus totalling thirteen. Sister Edith Pomar, President of the HPB Lodge, opened the Lodge to sympathizers of the TS once a month and this has gone well and many persons are visiting our Lodge. In March 1999 we received a visit from Isis Borges de Resende from Brazil who offered a meditation course, which we appreciated. We offered another course on the 'Principles of the Theosophical Philosophy' in 1998 and repeated it in June 1999; both times with good participation.

As a result of a conversation I had with the International President in Brazil, we created a special fund to finance visits to other cities in addition to Lima. Edith Pomar was chosen to travel in July to Juliaca, 4,000 meters above sea level, where she lectured, conducted a course on Theosophy, and made presentations on radio and television. Juliaca was chosen because one of our members lives there and helped to organize the programme. We will send another person to organize a study group because of the interest created.

In Lima, HPB Lodge continued the study of Human Regeneration by Radha Burnier and from May studied the original text of the Gospel of St John compared with The Yoga of Christ by Ravi Ravindra. Lodge Loto Blanco studied Powell's The Astral Body and later Human Regeneration. The Study Group Verdad took up Taimni's Self Culture. In these groups members rotate as expositors, which encourages self-preparation and study by oneself.

RUSSIA No Report The Lodges jointly celebrated Foundation Day, Adyar Day, and White Lotus Day. We have social meetings every month to celebrate the birthdays of our members. The Lodges jointly organized the raffle of a jewel donated by Jorge Melgarejo and Edith Pomar; the money obtained enabled the TS to acquire a place for its work.

Our little bulletin grew to become the magazine *Búsqueda*; two issues have appeared. We started with 500 copies and are now printing 1,000.

Our library has been reorganized. We distribute free articles to members, which are photocopied from Spanish publications we receive from other Sections. Thus, our members receive something valuable every month.

The Theosophical Order of Service collected used clothing in October and donated them to the aged persons in a shelter. At Christmas time, toys and candles were distributed to poor children in a hospital. Twice they gave gifts to children with mental problems. The healing ritual is also being used.

Owing to economic reasons we have not imported any books from Argentina or Spain and book sales have greatly diminished.

Our membership now stands at thirty-nine, the same as last year.

Mr Julio Gerardo Pomar
Presidential Representative

VENEZUELA No Report

#### REPORTS OF FEDERATIONS

#### EUROPEAN FEDERATION

In July, the inauguration of the new guest house at the Naarden Centre was one of the outstanding events of the year. Another special event in July was the Workers' Gathering on 'Exploring TS Work' conducted by the International President at the Centre.

The work proceeded as usual in Europe. The chairman visited Spain and Portugal and gave talks.

During the year, there were several events in Eastern Europe. A two-day 'School of Theosophy' took place in Magnitogorsk with At the Feet of the Master and Vivekacudamani as the basis of study. This was followed by a two-day seminar on 'Theosophy in Daily Life'. Blavatsky Lodge, the first one in Russia after many decades of

inactivity, was inaugurated in Magnitogorsk in a simple way.

In Moscow, a three-day School of Theosophy was organized on 'Discipleship as Explained in *The Mahatma Letters*' and also a three-day seminar on 'Spiritual Regeneration of Mankind'. The attendance was good in both places. We hope to see a second Lodge constituted in Moscow in the not-too-distant future.

In Ukraine a four-day seminar was organized in Dnepropetrovsk on the subject of 'The Ethical Basis of the World Religions'. For the first time we had some activities in Kiev to create interest.

Tran-Thi-Kim-Diêu Chairman

# INDO-PACIFIC FEDERATION

The Federation undertook supportive activities in several member-countries. The Federation President visited Purth Lodge to conduct a training programme for facilitators of the 'Self-Transformation Seminar' in July and August 1999. Twenty-two persons registered for the training while about fifty registered for the weekend seminars open to the public. In co-ordination with the Presidential Representative for Southeast Asia, Dr C. V. Agarwal,

Theosophical publications were sent to Bangladesh and funds were remitted to support the work.

In Korea, Mr Kil Young Lim has reassumed the Presidency of the Lodge, which meets once a month. One member plans to go to Adyar to undertake studies in Theosophy. Mr Anthony Kang heads a study group of younger people.

Vicente Haó Chin Jr.

President

#### INTER-AMERICAN FEDERATION

The Federation is active in the Americas and its aim is to connect the theosophical organizations in both hemispheres. A newsletter appears regularly in the Spanish, Portuguese and English languages. Under the auspices of the Federation extensive lecture tours are undertaken.

The President, Mr. Alfredo Puig, and Vice-President, Dr John Algeo, held lively and well-attended meetings in Mexico City in May 1999. Plans for the Caribbean Basin encounter to be held in June 2000 in Puerto Rico were discussed. A special committee, with the General Secretary of Argentina Mr Jorge Cesano as chairman, was appointed to plan attractive theosophical literature for the young.

An international gathering of youth, with participants from all over South America, took place at the Institute of Theosophy in Brasilia in July 1999. In May, Dr Terezinha Franca Kind from Brazil visited Colombia and Venezuela on behalf of the Federation and spoke to members and sympathizers. In September, the Federation's President made a fruitful visit to Montevideo when the Argentine and Uruguayan Sections jointly held a seminar.

Special efforts were made to strengthen ties with the members in Central America.

Mr Jan Nicolas Kind Secretary

## REPORTS OF LODGES ATTACHED TO ADYAR

#### ISRAEL

Covenant Lodge holds members' meetings twice a month to study the fundamental teachings of Theosophy and to discuss ways to teach them. Each month we hold three public meetings. Two in our centre and one in a rented hall in Tel Aviv. In these meetings we usually have seventy to eighty participants. At the meetings at our centre we have about fifteen to twenty persons. Once a month we go out into nature for study and

meditation with about forty to fifty members and non-members participating. Two seminars were held, one in October 1998 on 'Touching the Soul' with about 230 participants and another one in April on 'The Mystical Experience' with about 310 attending.

In September 1998, we introduced Theosophy to the younger generation and continue to hold meetings for them twice a month. About eight young people came regularly and a few more

less frequently.

As before, we conducted five introductory classes in Tel Aviv with eight to ten participants. There was also a 'Teaching Theosophy' course, apart from which there were two meditation courses.

The forty-eighth issue of our magazine Or was published during the year. Miss Mary Anderson was kind enough to visit us again and conduct

seminars on 'The Constitution of Man'; 'Reincarnation and Karma'; and 'From Knowledge to Wisdom'.

On 30 September 1999 we had members. We have a new category of semi-members called Circle of the Friends of the TS who are not ready to join the Society, but pay membership fees and want to be in touch with us.

Mr Abraham Oron President, Covenant Lodge

#### **JAPAN**

There are three Lodges in the country: Nippon Lodge in Tokyo with 69 members; Osaka Lodge with 18 members and some more in Nagoya, making a total of 87. We are continuing translation work and wish

to publish two more books. We received a visit from Ruben and Diana Cabigting from the USA who spoke to the members.

Mr Jeff Clark

#### KOREA

We meet once a month. Currently our textbook for study is *The Secret Doctrine*.

During the year, we published part of *The Secret Doctrine* in Korean. We also published a one-volume summary of The Seven Principles of Human Nature from the twelfth-volume of HPB's Collected Writings along with Light on the Path.

> Mr Lim Kil Young President Korea Lodge

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#### KOREA

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# DIRECTORY

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OF THE MEETING OF THE

GENERAL COUNCIL

#### DIRECTORY

# Ex-Officio Members of the General Council

President: Mrs Radha Burnier Vice-President: Miss Mary Anderson Secretary: Mrs Dolores Gago Treasurer: Mr D.K. Govindaraj

# National Societies, Regional Associations and Presidential Agencies

Date of	Name of	General Secretary	Address
Formation	Section		
1947	Africa, East & Central	Mr H.G. Devani	PO Box 22385, Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania
1909	Africa, Southern	Mr T.G. Davis	22 Buffels Rd., Rietondale 0084, Pretoria
1956	Africa, West	Mr P.B. Kwakyi	PO Box 720, Accra, Ghana
1929	America, Central *	Mr Francisco Mayorga Obando	Apdo. Postal 2685 Managua, Nicaragua
1920	Argentina	Mr Jorge Cesano	Rivadavia 533, 2200 San Lorenzo, Santa Fe
1990	Asia, South East †	Dr C.V. Agarwal	The Theosophical Society, Varanasi 221 010, India
1895	Australia	Mrs Beverly Champion	4th Fl., 484 Kent St., Sydney, NSW 2000
1912	Austria	Mr Franz Durkowitsch	Altmuhlweg 5/6, A-4810, Gmunden
1911	Belgium	Dr H. van der Hecht	166 Rue de la Cambre, 1200 Brussels
1965	Bolivia †	Mrs Teresa W. de Nuñez	Casilla de Correo 3911, Cochabamba
1920	Brazil	Mr Ricardo Lindemann	Sociedade Teosofica no Brazil, SGAS Quadra 603, No. 20, CEP 70200-630, Brasilia (DF)
1924	Canada *	Mrs Elizabeth Smith	PO Box 123, Wellington, Ont., KOK 3LO
1920	Chile	Mr Maximiliano Aguilera	Casilla 3603, Santiago
1937	Colombia	Mrs Nelly Medina de Galvis	Cra. 6, No. 56-40, Bogota-2
1997	Costa Rica †	Mr Jaime Hernandez Hostaller	Apdo 2986-1000, San Jose
1905	Cuba	Mr Gaspar Torres Martinez	Apartado de Correos 6365, La Habana 10600
1918	Denmark †	Mr Flemming Hansen	Ystadvej 38, DK-2850 Naerum
1888	England	Mr Colin Price	50 Gloucester Place, London W1H 4EA
1907	Finland	Mr Yrjo Kumila	Vironkatu 7c2, Fin 00170, Helsinki
1899	France	Mme Danielle Audoin	4 Square Rapp, 75007 Paris
1902	Germany	Mrs Elisabeth Schmidt	Friedrich-Wilhelm-Str., 54, D-12103, Berlin
1928	Greece	Mr P. Anagnostou	25 Voukourestiou St., 106 71-Athens
1907	Hungary †	Mr Thomas Martinovich	Hunyadi Janos ut 17. II. 8, H-1011 Budapest
1921	Iceland	Mr Jon L. Arnalds	P O Box 1257 Ingolfsstraeti 22, 121 Reykjavik
1891	India	Mr S.M. Umakanth Rao	The Theosophical Society, Varanasi 221 010
1912	Indonesia	Mr H.M. Soesiswo	Jalan Oto Iskandardinata III/G.336, Jatinegara, Jakarta 13340, Timur
1949	Ireland, Northern *	Mr John Doherty	<ol> <li>Hillsborough Drive, off Woodstock Rd., Belfast BT6 9DS</li> </ol>
1919	Ireland, Republic of	Mrs W. Woods	31 Pembroke Road, Dublin 4
1902	Italy	Mr Antonio Girardi	Via Quintino Sella, 32, C.P. 640, 36100 Vicenza
1997	Ivory Coast * (W. Africa)	Mr Pierre-Magloire Kouahoh	Yopougon, Rue Princess, 23 B. P., 3924 Abidjan 23

# DIRECTORY

Date of	Name of	General Secretary	Address
Formation	Section	STOREST SHE IN STRUMBURY OF	HUIVE STATE OF THE
1919	Mexico	Mrs Lissette Arroyo Jimenez	Ignacio Mariscal 126 Col. Tabacalera C.P. 06470 Mexico 1, D.F.
1897	Netherlands, The	Ms Ali Ritsema	Tolstraat 154, 1074 VM Amsterdam
1896	New Zealand	Mr Arthur Goodall	18, Belvedere Street, Epsom, Auckland 3
1913	Norway	Mr Torstein A. Tobiassen	PO Box 2889, Toyen 0608 Oslo 6
1948	Pakistan †	Mrs Gool K. Minwalla	Jamshed Memorial Hall, M.A. Jinna Road, Karachi
1924	Peru †	Mr Julio Gerardo Pomar	Jr. Repúblic de Portugal 152, Brena, Lima 5
1933	Philippines, The	Mr Vicente Haó Chin, Jr.	Corner P. Florentino and Iba Streets, Quezon City
1921	Portugal	Dr Humberto Alvares da Costa	Campo Martires da Pàtria 69, r/c-Dto., 1150 Lisboa
1925	Puerto Rico	Mrs Magaly Polanco	GPO Box 36-1766, San Juan, 00936-1766
1994	Russia †	Mrs Nina Veligon	Pereulok Soviet House 4 Flat 56, 455036 Magnitogorsk
1910	Scotland *	Mr Alastair MacQueen	2 Brownhills Cottages, St. Andrews, Fife KY16 8PL, UK
1992	Slovenia *	Mrs Irena P. Kristan	Martinova pot 35, SLO - 1210, Ljubljana
1921	Spain	Miss Maria Carmen Cesar Galante	Virgen de Iciar 15 - 1° A, 28220 Madrid
1926	Sri Lanka	Mr Tudor Jayewardene	84/3 Pepiliyana Road, Dostarawatta, Nugegoda
1895	Sweden	Mrs Ing-Britt Wiklund	Kalle Posts väg 48, SE-702 29 Örebro
1910	Switzerland	Mr Edwin Nathan	9, Avenue Eugene-Pittard, 1206 Geneva
1997	Togo *	Mr M. Dam Tsowu	BP 215, Atakpame, W. Africa
1886	USA	Dr John Algeo	PO Box 270, Wheaton, IL 60189-0270
1925	Uruguay	Mrs Mercedes Fernandez	Javier Barrios Amorin 1085, Casilla de Correos 1553, Montevideo
1953	Venezuela†	Miss Mariela Lasso Salas	Calle 116 No. 11-09 Apto. 501 Santafe de Bogota, Colombia, S. America
1922	Wales *	Mrs I. Eberhard-Evans	206 Newport Road, Cardiff CF2 1DL, UK

'The Council of the European Federation: Chairman: Miss Tran-Thi-Kim-Diêu

67 Rue des Pommiers, 45000 Orleans, France

Inter-American Theosophical Federation: President: Mr Alfredo Puig Figueroa

SGAS Quadra 603, No.20 (CEP-70200-630), Brasilia (DF) Brazil

Indo-Pacific Theosophical Federation: President: Mr V. Haó Chin, Jr.

Corner P. Florentino and Iba Streets, Quezon City, The Philippines

<sup>\*</sup> Regional Association

<sup>†</sup> Presidential Agency

#### Additional Members of the General Council

- Miss Tran Thi Kim Diêu, 67 Rue des Pommiers, 45000 Orleans, France (for 1998, 1999 and 2000)
- Mr K. Visvanathan, 7 Park View Road, Srinivasa Avenue, Chennai 600 028, India (for 1998, 1999 and 2000)
- Mr Paul Zwollo, International Thtosophical Centre, Valkeveenselaan 19, 1411 GT Naarden, The Netherlands (for 1998, 1999 and 2000)
- Mr Curt Berg, Sparrisbacken 63, S-165, Hasselby, Sweden (for 1999, 2000 and 2001)
- Miss Ianthe Hoskins, 37 Victoria Hill Road, Hextable, Swanley, Kent BR8 7LL, England (for 1999, 2000 and 2001)
- Miss Joy Mills, 22 Krotona Hill, Ojai, CA 93023, USA (for 1999, 2000 and 2001)
- Mr Surendra Narayan, X-7 Haus Khas, New Delhi 110 016, India (for 1999, 2000 and 2001)
- Mrs Linda Oliveira, 484 Kent Street, Sydney NSW 2000, Australia (for 2000, 2001 and 2002)
- Mr Gabriel Burgos Suarez, Transversal 19, No. 61-32 Bogota-2, Colombia (South America) (for 2000, 2001 and 2002)

#### MINUTES

# Of the meeting of the General Council of the Theosophical Society held on Saturday, 25 December 1999, at Adyar

#### . Mr. Gabriel Burole Some PRESENT benefit bis bermilines bew betallunis

Mrs. Radha Burnier	President (in the chair) and proxy for South Africa, the Philippines, Brazil, Finland and Miss Joy Mills
Miss Mary Anderson	Vice-President and proxy for Belgium, Germany, Sweden and Australia
Mrs. Dolores Gago	Secretary and proxy for Colombia, Sri Lanka, Mexico and Mr. Gabriel Burgos Suarez
Mr. D. K. Govindaraj	Treasurer and proxy for Mrs. Linda Oliveira (formerly Harris) and Miss lanthe Hoskins
Mr. S. M. Umakanth Rao	General Secretary, India
Mr. Surendra Narayan	Additional Member and proxy for the United States and West Africa
Ms. Trân-Thi-Kim-Diêu	Additional Member and proxy for France, New Zealand, Italy and Mr. Curt Berg
Mr. Paul Zwollo	Additional Member and proxy for the Netherlands
Mr. K. Visvanathan	Additional Member

Present by invitation as Observer:

Dr. C. V. Agarwal Presidential Representative for South-East Asia

The President warmly welcomed those present.

The list of proxies was read out as recorded above.

#### 1. Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held at Adyar on 25 December 1998, which had already been circulated, were confirmed and signed.

#### 2. Matters arising out of the Minutes

(a) Greece

The report of the Greek Section was again very vague, with no indication of the actual activity of the Lodges. Harmony does not seem to have been re-established, since 156 members have resigned, so that numbers dropped from 270 to 117. No reason was given for the resignations. The Section asked to be allowed to pay half fees for 1998 and 1999, since their financial position was tight due to damage following the recent earthquake.

The General Secretary has written complaining that Blavatsky Lodge has not met for six months before and after the summer recess and asking what steps to take. He will be informed that this is not sufficient reason for any sanctions, such as withdrawing the lodge charter. Note was taken of a letter from the Netherlands General Secretary in favour of Blavatsky Lodge. It was agreed that the Officers of the Society should deal with the situation as they found fit.

Concerning the Rules of the Greek Section, some amendments adopted early in 1999 were deficient and insufficient. Finally, the Greek text of completely revised Rules was received which seems to include almost all the necessary amendments, so far as they could be understood with the help of a Greek member of the Belgian Section. They were informed that they could go ahead and adopt the Rules (with two further amendments) but they can be approved by the President only when a certified English translation is sent by the Section.

#### 3. Confirmation of Voting

(a) Re-election of Treasurer for the years 2000, 2001 and 2002

The President had renominated Mr. D. K. Govindaraj for election as Treasurer under Rule 13 of the Rules and Regulations for another three-year term from 1.1.2000.

The result of the voting was:

For Against Abstained Total

Mr. D. K. Govindaraj was declared re-elected Treasurer for the years 2000, 2001 and 2002.

(b) Re-election of Additional Members for the years 2000, 2001 and 2002

The President had renominated Mr. Gabriel Burgos Suarez and Mrs. Linda Oliveira under Rule 2(b) of the Rules and Regulations for election as Additional Members of the General Council.

The result of the voting was:

	For	Against	Abstained	Total
Mr. Gabriel Burgos Suarez	33	Tearsunce	2000 (10 (0)	34
Mrs Linda Oliveira	34			34

The two above named were declared re-elected Additional Members of the General Council for the years 2000, 2001 and 2002.

## 4. Report of the Non-English Publications Fund Committee

The Vice-President reported that there were no grants during the year ended 30 September 1999. Application forms were sent to various countries. The revision of the list of books recommended for translation is almost completed.

#### 5. Report of the International Finance Committee

The Vice-President submitted the report of the International Finance Committee for the year ended 30 September 1999.

# 6. Report of the Executive Committee for the year ended 30 September 1999; Executive Committee for 2000

Salient points from the minutes of the Executive Committee were presented.

The following were appointed members of the Executive Committee for 2000:

Mrs. Radha Burnier
Miss Mary Anderson
Mrs. Dolores Gago
Mr. D. K. Govindaraj
Mr. Surendra Narayan
Mr. K. Visvanathan
Mr. R. M. Tolani
Mr. K. P. Shenoy

# 7. Treasurer's Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 1999

The Treasurer's report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 1999, which had previously been circulated, were considered. It was noted that the overall financial position of the Society continued to be satisfactory. The report and accounts were adopted.

# 8. Budget for the year ending 31 March 2001

The budget for the year ending 31 March 2001, which had been previously circulated, was considered and adopted.

#### 9. Auditors for the year ending 31 March 2001

Messrs. Fraser and Ross were appointed auditors of the Theosophical Society for the year ending 31 March 2001.

#### 10. Work around the World

#### (a) Withdrawal of Section Charters; Formation of Regional Associations

The President proposed to withdraw the Charters of the following National Societies, since the number of members in good standing / Lodges has been for several years below the minimum under Rule 36(d) of the Rules and Regulations of the Society.

Austria (3 Lodges; 105 members)
Chile (5 Lodges; 39 members)
Norway (5 Lodges; 36 members)
Uruguay (5 Lodges; 67 members)

The Council agreed. These four Sections will be certified as Regional Associations.

The TS in Northern Ireland (with two dormant Lodges and 27 members) is no longer qualified to be a Regional Association. Belfast Lodge is to be attached directly to Adyar.

# (b) The Canadian Federation

The Canadian Federation is proposing to incorporate itself and change its name to 'Canadian Theosophical Society Inc.' Canadian law may require changes in the Rules which might be incompatible with the International Rules. After discussion it was decided to advise them to consult suitable people with experience and legal knowledge, especially Dr John Algeo.

# (c) Kenya

A commission composed of Christian clergymen appointed by the Government to enquire into devil-worship in Kenya issued a report in 1996, now made public, charging different bodies, including the Theosophical Society, Freemasons etc., with being 'gateways to devilworship'. The TS in Kenya as well as the other bodies had protested. Some MPs proposed to discuss the waste of public money on the commission.

The members in Kenya proposed to hold an All-African Convention in that country from 20 to 24 October 2000. This will be announced on our website and in *The Theosophist*.

#### **MINUTES**

Of the Adjourned Meeting of the General Council of the Theosophical Society held at Adyar on Saturday, 1 January 2000 at 9 a.m.

#### PRESENT

All the Council Members present at the meeting held on 25 December 1999 with the exception of Mr. Surendra Narayan, Additional Member.

#### 2. Matters arising out of the Minutes

(b) World Congress, Sydney, 2000

Based on suggestions from the Australian Section and on the list of members registered so far, an outline programme was worked out.

#### 10. Work around the World

(c) Kenya (continued)

The following statement of the General Council is to be sent to appropriate authorities in Kenya:

We are greatly distressed to learn that a Presidential Commission set up in Kenya to enquire into devil-worship has named the Theosophical Society among organizations which may be involved in such 'devil-worship'.

The Theosophical Society was founded in 1875 in New York and has its international headquarters in Chennai, India, with branches in some seventy countries worldwide, including the U.S.A., Great Britain, France, Russia, Japan, India, Australia, Brazil and, on the African Continent, Kenya, Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia etc. Its principal object is to foster the universal brotherhood of humanity without distinction of race, creed, sex, caste or colour. To subserve that object, it also encourages the study of comparative religion, philosophy and science and promotes the understanding of human nature as part of an all-embracing universal life.

The presence of a serpent and other ancient symbols in the emblem of the Theosophical Society seems to have been interpreted as a sign of devil-worship, which is totally erroneous. The emblem contains symbols from many religions. In Hinduism and other eastern religions the serpent represents eternity and wisdom and not the devil, and the other symbols also have had from ancient times deep philosophical meanings for various peoples of the earth, completely unconnected with the interpretations given to them by the Commission.

The Theosophical Society has been working constantly against materialism, superstition, obscurantism and blind belief. All over the world, persons eminent in different fields like the judiciary, politics, science, philosophy, literature and public service have been members of the Theosophical Society. These include such outstanding individuals as Mahatma Gandhi

and Jawaharlal Nehru, former Prime Minister of India. Today also its membership worldwide represents men and women who are drawn to it by its appeal to the high ideals of universal brotherhood, peace and public service. Devotion to truth, love for all living beings and commitment to a life of active altruism are the marks of a true theosophist.

We therefore strongly repudiate the allegation that the Theosophical Society has connections with 'devil-worship'. Nothing could be further from the truth.

#### 11. Any Other Business

Proposal by the English Section

The English Section has proposed that the Subba Row Medal be awarded to Vernon Harrison, who has written a paper vindicating H. P. Blavatsky. He has been made an 'Honorary Member' of the English Section. The Subba Row Medal is, however, meant to be awarded to those who have made outstanding contributions to theosophical literature and Mr. Harrison's work, though laudable, does not qualify.

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